

Bush warns Soviet Union

WASHINGTON (AP) — President George Bush said Tuesday the United States would make "appropriate response" if the Soviet Union carried out a threat to cut natural gas and other fuel supplies to Lithuania. Bush refused to say what steps might be taken. He issued his warning after Lithuanian officials said they were told by the Kremlin that cuts in natural gas supplies were to begin Tuesday and reductions in oil and gasoline would start Wednesday. "Obviously we are watching the situation very, very closely," Bush said during a picture-taking session in the Oval Office with visiting President Rafael Angel Calderon of Honduras. "We're waiting to see if the Soviet announcements are implemented," Bush said. "Clearly those announcements are contrary to the approach that we have urged and that others have urged upon the Soviet Union. We are considering appropriate response if these threats are implemented," Bush said. "And I'm going to have it right there," Bush concluded by saying. "What we need is dialogue, discussion and a peaceful resolution of this great difficulty there."

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U.S.: No return to UNESCO

WASHINGTON (AP) — Secretary of State James Baker Tuesday ruled out the possibility of an early U.S. return to U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) membership, saying the U.N. body is still mismanaged and excessively politicized. Baker said in a report to Congress that UNESCO Director General Federico Mayor continues to be hampered by his reputation as a "well-intentioned but poor administrator." Six years ago the administration of then-President Ronald Reagan withdrew from UNESCO, Britain and Singapore quickly followed suit. Renewed membership would cost the United States about \$50 million annually. Japan, UNESCO's largest contributor, recently indicated that it, too, may cease making payments.

Iran seizes 17 Pakistani trawlers

KARACHI (R) — Iran has seized 17 Pakistani trawlers for fishing in Iranian waters, the official AFP news agency said Tuesday. It said Iran had seized about 70 Pakistani fishing boats during the last two years. A spokesman for the Karachi fish harbour said some crew from the seized trawlers had been sent to Karachi about three boats. No further details were immediately available.

Islamic group says members arrested

AMMAN (R) — A Jordanian fundamentalist group said Tuesday eight of its members had been arrested while distributing leaflets about the banned organisation. The radical Islamic Liberation Party, Hizb Al Tahrir Al Islami, said in a statement the arrests were made on March 23. An official source confirmed the arrests but gave no further details.

Israeli drowned, 2 swim to safety

CAIRO (R) — An Israeli was drowned and two others swam to safety when their boat sank in a squall off Egypt's Red Sea coast, the Israeli embassy said Tuesday. The incident took place about two kilometres offshore from the border tourist resort of Taba Monday. The body of a man was recovered on Tuesday morning, police sources said. The survivors, a man and a woman, swam to the shore and were driven to the border checkpoint in a taxi where they were questioned and allowed to go home, the sources said.

Ethiopia rebels free 2 Cuban captives

KHARTOUM (AP) — Two Cuban medical workers held captive by the Ethiopian rebels were released and flown to North Yemen Tuesday, the official Sudan News Agency reported. It said the government of Sudan and North Yemen have mediated the release of the two Cubans. North Yemen Ambassador to Sudan Abdul Salam Al Anisi, accompanied the freed Cubans to his country's capital Sanaa Tuesday, the agency said. The rebel Oromo Liberation Front will release four other Cuban medical workers later, the agency said without giving details. Ethiopian rebel sources in Khartoum were not immediately available for comment.

Mass protest against Soviet ministers

MOSCOW (R) — About 10,000 people demonstrated in defence of two corruption investigators outside the Kremlin Tuesday while the Soviet parliament debated whether they broke regulations in their pursuit of top-level offenders. The Supreme Soviet, the country's standing parliament, was debating whether to lift parliamentary immunity from Yelena Gilyan and Nikolai Ivanov — one of the most closely watched battles between emerging radicals and the Kremlin establishment.

King, Arafat stress common position, goals

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer with agency dispatches

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein and Palestinian President Yasser Arafat Tuesday discussed means to counter Soviet Jewish immigration to Palestine and plans for convening an Arab summit.

A statement carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said the two leaders stressed the importance of holding an Arab summit to discuss the repercussions of Soviet Jewish immigration to Palestine and to formulate a unified Arab stand towards Arab and international developments.

The closed meeting was followed by broader talks attended by senior Jordanian officials and a delegation accompanying Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). King Hussein was quoted by Petra as making welcoming remarks in which he stressed the common destiny of the Jordanian

and Palestinian peoples. "Our joint struggle, which unified us in the past, will remain a unifying factor always," King Hussein said. "Our joint stand in the first front line is our destiny and an honour bestowed upon us by our duty towards our homeland and nation," he added.

"We had to fight many battles in the past and many other battles might be imposed upon us in the future... we are going to fight these battles together... we are comrades in one march," King Hussein told the PLO delegation.

King Hussein instructed the government to discuss all issues of joint concern with the PLO delegation and to coordinate efforts, particularly political and information issues to promote Arab national causes.

"The dangers which confront us not only threaten the Arab land in Palestine but also the Arab depth," the King said in his

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Arafat's schedule — as elusive as peace in Mideast

AMMAN (AP) — Yasser Arafat sometime seems as elusive as Middle East peace itself. Sweden's foreign minister, Sten Andersson, flew to Cairo Monday for a meeting with the Palestinian Liberation Organisation chairman.

Arafat, he told reporters at Cairo airport, would arrive "momentarily." At roughly the same time, Prime Minister Mudar Badran was arriving at an airport in Amman to greet the Palestinian leader.

Arafat was not yet due, he was told. Go back. Obviously miffed,

he did. Badran returned more than an hour later. Finally Arafat's Iraqi jet touched down. Without Arafat.

The pilot leaned from the window and waved his hand at the officials lined along the red carpet in a motion of "go back."

Unbeknownst to the most senior Jordanian officials, Arafat had chosen to land and deplane at Queen Alia International Airport south of Amman rather than at the Marja military airport closer to town where waited Badran and company.

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Assad signals welcome to reconciliation effort

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — President Hafez Al Assad of Syria, in remarks carried Tuesday by the official press, hinted that he would welcome a reconciliation effort with Iraq to help Arab World face myriad problems.

The Syrian president, speaking late Monday to a gathering of religious clerics, did not mention Iraq or its President Saddam Hussein by name.

"Considering the dangers to come, we appeal for Arab solidarity and we should make an effort for it," said the president, speaking to the group gathered for an iftar.

"If we do nothing, if we don't unite, the price will be catastrophe," he said.

Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasbi said last week that Jordan

was again trying to reconcile Syria and Iraq.

The leaders of the Arab World have not had a regular summit meeting for almost a decade, although they have called extraordinary sessions to discuss pressing problems.

Various Arab states have called for a summit this year to discuss the Middle East peace process, the hundreds of thousands of Soviet Jews expected to immigrate to Israel and the Arab League efforts to end the Lebanese war among other issues.

"Appeals and slogan are not enough to achieve badly needed Arab solidarity," the Syrian president said. "Solidarity is not something you can buy. It must be based on everyone's conviction."

One year after price riots in the south — political reforms outpace economic changes

By Ghadeer Taher Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — On April 17, 1989, angry crowds in the southern town of Ma'an went on a rampage against government-imposed price increases agreed with the International Monetary Fund (IMF). After five days, the riots ended, but a year later, the political dust that was stirred by the April uprising, remains unsettled. The economic crisis which ignited it, along with the prescribed structural adjustment programme, remain a constant reminder of the end of an era of economic aberration and the beginning of the most important peace-time transformation in the Kingdom's history.

Since the riots, which had spread to several other towns in the south as well as to Salt, 20 kilometres from Amman, the Kingdom has witnessed two governments, the

first general elections in 22 years, the suspension of martial law imposed in 1967, and the initiation of a democratisation process towards political pluralism. Accompanying the moves were the release of over 100 political detainees, lifting of travel and employment bans and steps towards the reinstatement of people dismissed from jobs for political reasons. The process entered another phase last week with the appointment of a 60-member Royal Commission entrusted with drafting a national charter to govern not only political life and legalisation of political parties after a 32-year hiatus but also almost every aspect of life in the Kingdom.

While political reforms have been introduced at an accelerated pace, economic reforms have been slow, and mostly limited to containing the repercussions of the crisis which surfaced with the failure of the government to service a stag-

gering \$8.3 billion debt and a depleting foreign currency reserves which forced a forty per cent devaluation of the Jordanian dinar in the past two years.

"We are happy with the parliamentary life in the capital," said a taxi driver in Ma'an. "But nothing has really changed here in Ma'an. Most people understand economic correction is gradual but it is still the most pressing issue."

During the run-up to the Nov. 8 general elections, voters saw in the candidates solutions to political oppression and economic deterioration exacerbated by what is described by many experts as an unproductive and bloated bureaucracy fuelled by mounting unemployment.

Today, after a four-month session of Parliament, many realise that the legislative authority has its own limitations in solving the problems that have accumulated over the

past two decades. While the Lower House of Parliament has effectively accelerated the process of political liberalisation, it has accomplished very little on the economic front.

In January, the government unveiled a recessionary budget which cut public and private consumption, depressed expenditure and promised increased internal revenues along the lines of a structural adjustment programme agreed upon with the IMF in April last year.

One of the main elements that Jordan is depending on to see it through its present difficulties is financial assistance from the Arab Gulf countries. Intense contacts are continuing with the Gulf states, and senior officials have expressed confidence that the Kingdom will receive the minimum financial aid from the Gulf as envisaged in the 1990 budget.

Although the economic situation and what it means to

the man on the street is the dominant concern of the society today, the newfound political freedoms are also seen as important.

"It is true that very little has been achieved by Parliament and the government concerning the economic situation in the country," said a former political detainee. "But it is blessing to be able to freely speak one's mind and espouse different ideologies."

Having delivered the country through the first general election — widely seen as the freest in the Arab World — after taking over the helm in April 1989, Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker stepped down as transitional prime minister in December and Mudar Badran, who has served two previous terms as premier, assumed office.

Badran, faced with a Parliament that housed the strongest

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Tense calm marks April unrest anniversary in south

By Lennis K. Andou, Ghadeer Taher and P.V. Vivekanand

MAAN — The first anniversary Tuesday of the price riots that shook Jordan in April last year appeared to have passed quietly in this southern town, with very little outward signs of popular sentiments, but one could feel the tension that gripped the town as it marked the first year of the violent events.

In Karak, another southern town ravaged by the unrest, the anniversary was marked by a brief demonstration by about 100 people, according to official sources.

The crowd gathered near the main mosque in Karak and marched down the street after midday prayers, said a senior police official who spoke to the Jordan Times on condition of anonymity. "It was a very peaceful protest and the protesters dispersed with no trouble whatsoever," the official said.

In Maan, apart from the broken glass of one of the government buildings, there is hardly any sign left of the violence which swept the small town on April 17 last year. The quiet dusty streets in no way indicate that they once were transformed into a battlefield with burning tyres, barrels and angry youths throwing stones at security men and burning government buildings and even some commercial banks.

Tuesday, in a warm day of Ramadan, the streets of Maan were almost empty and very calm. But journalists could not miss the underlying tension which some residents did very little to hide. Small knots of two or three people gathered in front of shops, some of them willing to talk to the press while others were not. Yet some others were visibly angry and frustrated.

"Where were you before it all happened? Where was the local press? You did not care about us then; you still don't. Go back to Amman and find something else to write about," shouted an angry shopkeeper at journalists.

Other shopkeepers and passers-by unsuccessfully tried to calm the middle-aged man, who appeared to be suppressing an outburst of either tears or anger. But they seemed essentially to share his sentiments.

"The main problem in Maan was that people felt that they were neglected by Amman but now they feel better," Maan Deputy Yusef Al Adem told the Jordan Times in Amman. When told about the Maan shopkeeper's remarks to journalists, he agreed that feelings of neglect are still prevalent but stressed that there is less bitterness than last year.

Unlike most cities and major towns, Maan is basically conservative and religious and it has never been a seat for organised political activities. Therefore the eruption of violent protests last April came as an unpleasant surprise.

"It was the events of last April that inspired the need to renew the social contract," His Majesty King Hussein said in his address to the Royal Commission entrusted to draw up a national charter to regulate political life in the country.

It was basically a string of price increases which prompted taxi drivers, students and essentially most sectors in Maan to initiate a protest which triggered a full-fledged campaign against official corruption and for wider popular participation.

A year later, as the democratisation process in the country is in full swing, the winds of change have not yet reached the depth of this southern region. "We see some

difference, at least we can now go to our deputies in the parliament and complain but the economic hardship has not changed," a young Maani said.

According to Adem, "it is true that there are such sentiments but they are definitely milder after Prime Minister Mudar Badran's visit to the town, people felt that the government cares after all."

The government has agreed to a long awaited request by Maan to open a branch of Muta University in the town while Badran has allocated funds for needed service projects in Maan.

"We hear promises and we are waiting," a young man said Tuesday. "But despite these frustrations there was no sign of any action although security officials who were obvious in the town appeared tense and on full alert."

"Maan has never been a hotbed for competing parties or the left and we are not going to allow to be, it is against the nature of the people of Maan," Adem told the Jordan Times.

Other sources said that over the last two weeks various groups, some of them from outside Maan, had been trying to organise activities including a march and panel discussions in the town to commemorate last year's events.

But traditionalist group and the Muslim Brotherhood, which were said to have some influence in the town, resisted.

"Who said that we would like to commemorate anything? We just want to forget about it," a conservative notable from Maan said.

During the Jordan Times' short visit to Maan, what emerged was that some Maanis resist the glorification of last April's events as hypocrisy when expressed by hypocrites in Amman "who do not know anything about us."



His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday greets Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat (Photo by Yusef Al 'Allam)

Israelis shoot and wound 33 in Gaza

OCCUPIED GAZA (Agencies) — Israeli soldiers shot and wounded at least 33 Palestinians in the occupied Gaza Strip Tuesday when nationalist protests erupted after troops lifted a blanket curfew, hospital officials said.

"All the Strip was like hell," one resident said.

The 750,000 Palestinians in the Gaza Strip had been confined to their homes Monday for the second anniversary of the killing of Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) military commander Khalil Al Wazir (Abu Jihad), who Israel believed was directing the Palestinian uprising.

The Gazans commemorated Abu Jihad's death a day late with marches in which they hoisted Palestinian flags and in stone-throwing protests which troops dispersed with tear-gas, rubber bullets and live ammunition, residents said.

Hospital officials said 20 Palestinians were wounded in Rafah, straddling the Israeli-Egyptian border, a flashpoint of Israeli-Palestinian violence.

Seven protesters were wounded in Gaza City and the rest of the casualties occurred in refugee camps, they said.

Abu Jihad, a deputy of PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, was gunned down by masked commandos at his Tunis home April 16, 1988.

Israel has never acknowledged responsibility for the killing, but Israeli sources said the inner cabinet ordered the mission by a commando unit.

Israel regarded Abu Jihad as the key planner of dozens of resistance operations inside Israel. Sources also stressed his role in the Palestinian revolt.

Hours after his killing Palestinians took to the streets in the occupied territories in one of the uprising's bloodiest days. Troops then shot and killed 17 Palestinians and wounded 100 in clashes.

Some 150 Arab women took part in sit-in at the international Red Cross office in Gaza City demanding Israel free all Palestinian political prisoners and improve conditions in its jails, residents said.

Similar sit-ins were held in Jerusalem and the West Bank town of Jenin in accordance with a call by underground leaders of the revolt to mark prisoners' day.

Iraqis celebrate recapture of Fao

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraqis awoke Tuesday to the sound of 21-gun salutes marking a Gulf war victory over Iran and heard their government warn Israel that it could be the next target of Baghdad's military might.

"With our strength we liberated Fao and with this strength we confront Zionist challenges," said a slogan repeatedly broadcast on television and radio.

Iraqi troops retook the southern peninsula of Fao from Iranian forces April 17, 1988, in some of the fiercest fighting of their eight-year war.

The victory was a turning-point in the conflict, which halted with a ceasefire four months later.

Flags flew from public buildings all over Iraq Tuesday, a public holiday. Artillery fired ceremonial salvos and war documentaries were shown on television.

"Our forces kicked the Iranians out of Fao... and left them licking their wounds on the eastern bank of the Shatt Al Arab (waterway)," state radio said, quoting from a message delivered

King congratulates Iraq

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein had a telephone conversation Tuesday with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein on the anniversary of Iraq's liberation of the Fao peninsula from Iranian occupation forces. King Hussein wished the president and the Iraqi people best wishes in his name and on behalf of the Jordanian people and government.

by President Saddam Hussein on the day of the victory.

Baghdad's relations with Tehran remain sour but Israel has been the focus of Hussein's recent anger.

On April 2 he announced that Iraq had binary chemical weapons and would "burn half of Israel" if the Jewish state attacked it.

Court orders eviction of hospice settlers

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — A three-judge panel of an Israeli court Tuesday upheld an order to evict 150 Jewish settlers who moved into church-owned buildings in the Christian quarter of the walled Old City.

The settlement of the Jews under police guard only days before Easter raised tensions in the Old City.

Avraham Sochozolsky, a lawyer for the Greek Orthodox Church, said he would next ask police to carry out the order to evict the Jews from the 72-room complex owned by the church.

It was not clear, however, whether the Jewish settlers would be evicted immediately from the four buildings that once served as a church hospice.

The lawyers for the settlers said before the decision that they planned to appeal. They left the court just after the ruling.

The decision came after a four-hour, closed-door session.

The judges' written ruling said another court decision last Thursday to stay an eviction order was

arrived at with "an improper use of procedures, to say the least."

The decision did not affect a separate court action in which the Greek Orthodox Church is seeking to prove that a former tenant in the complex leased the 100-year-old buildings illegally to the settlers.

The settlers' move into the complex near the Church of the Holy Sepulcher last Wednesday set off a protest demonstration the following day by about 200 Christian clerics and supporters.

Police fired tear-gas when one priest tore down a poster picturing a star of David that had been placed over a cross on the main door of the complex.

Several churchmen, including Greek Orthodox Patriarch Diodorus I, collapsed from the tear-gas and were treated at a nearby clinic.

There have been at least three protests since, including one Tuesday in which Christian and Muslim Palestinians entered the

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KURDI DRUGSTORE

Welcomes the delegates of Master Pharma (A member of the Chiesi Int'l Group) and wishes them a pleasant and fruitful stay in Jordan.

Friends urge British government to step up efforts to free hostage

LONDON (AP) — Friends appealed to the British government to step up efforts to secure the release of journalist John McCarthy who began his fifth year as a hostage in Lebanon Tuesday.

"We are not saying do a deal, perhaps they can sort it out diplomatically," said McCarthy's friend Jill Morrell.

"But we will not have any evidence of what has happened to John until negotiations begin. As we begin his fifth year of captivity, we say it is time to talk to resolve this."

Miss Morrell said the recent release of a French woman, her Belgian boyfriend and their daughter showed that governments could successfully negotiate with their counterparts in the Middle East.

"It's great to see people released from Lebanon because it makes you think it really can happen," she said.

"It underlines the fact that their governments are doing what they can to get hostages out and ours is not."

McCarthy, 33, a journalist for Worldwide Television News, was kidnapped on April 17, 1986, on his way to Beirut airport to catch a plane home to London. No one has claimed responsibility for holding him.

His friends, his father, Patrick, and Foreign Office Minister William Waldegrave attended a remembrance service at St. Bride's Church, the journalists' church on Fleet Street.

The Friends of John McCarthy group also planned a silent vigil outside the Iranian embassy, and

said former French hostage Jean-Paul Kauffmann would attend. Iran is believed to have influence over those holding the hostages.

Seventeen other Westerners are also held hostage in Lebanon, including Irish teacher Brian Keenan, who also holds British citizenship, and who was kidnapped six days before McCarthy.

Terry Waite, the Archbishop of Canterbury's envoy, disappeared in Beirut on Jan. 20, 1987, while on a mission to free hostages. Retired British pilot Jack Mann has been missing in west Beirut since last May 12.

The longest held hostage is Terry Anderson, chief Middle East correspondent for the Associated Press, who has been abducted March 16, 1985.

In Beirut, Sheikh Mohammad Mehdi Shamseddin spiritual head

of Lebanon's Shi'ite Muslim community, said recently that all Western hostages kidnapped in Beirut were alive and well. He did not expand on the statement.

Shi'ite extremists loyal to Iran are believed to hold most of the 18 Western hostages in Lebanon. The majority have been held for more than 3 years.

Two French hostages freed by the shadowy group Islamic Jihad two years ago said their captors claimed they were also holding McCarthy.

The fate of the hostages is believed linked to a power struggle in the Iranian government. Recent Tehran newspaper editorials calling for their release are seen as reflecting the position of President Hashemi Rafsanjani, who seeks Western technology and financing.

Maghreb states propose funds to help halt exodus to Europe

TUNIS (R) — A special fund to finance job creation in North Africa and arrest emigration to Europe is on the agenda of talks in Tunis by European Community Commissioner Abel Matutes, Tunisian sources said Tuesday.

In charge of the EC's Mediterranean policies, Matutes is visiting Tunisia which is current chairman of the Arab Maghreb Union, an economic association mirroring the EC and linking Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia.

The special fund idea was prop-

osed last month by Tunisian Foreign Minister Ismail Khelil at an informal meeting between European and Maghreb officials in Tunis.

Khelil proposed the fund be financed in part by debts owed by North African countries to the EC, in order to promote job creation projects and help to halt emigration to Europe.

EC sources say there were 1,804,000 emigrant workers from Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia in the EC states in 1988. It is estimated there are also upwards of

600,000 illegal emigrants.

Official figures in the three Maghreb states show there are over two million unemployed, but trade union federations estimate the figure is double that number.

While North African officials have expressed concern with racist incidents in some European countries, Tunisian officials consider the special fund would help to halt particularly illegal emigration which is said to cause ill-feeling in Europe.

Kuwait prince promises return of parliament

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait's crown prince has pledged after talks with former legislators that parliament will be restored following criticism by pro-democracy demonstrators.

The Kuwaiti News Agency said Monday the prince, Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah, would report Tuesday on the talks to the Emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah.

KUNA quoted Sheikh Saad as repeating a pledge by the government to restore parliament, which the Emir dissolved in 1986 at the height of the Iran-Iraq war citing a foreign conspiracy to destroy the country.

Al Watan newspaper said Tuesday that Sheikh Saad told 70 former deputies that guarantees and restrictions were needed to ensure proper parliamentary practice.

The next phase of talks would focus on obstacles relating to any future dissolution of the assembly, the paper said.

Leaders of Kuwait's pro-democracy movement staged a street protest Friday against what they said was government inaction to bring back parliament.

Last Tuesday Al Anba newspaper quoted Sheikh Saad as saying the talks on setting up parliament could last two years.

Firm at centre of Iraqi gun row linked to murdered gunmaker

LONDON (R) — A company, run by murdered arms maker Gerlad Bull was involved in Iraq's order for steel tubes which British customs officials say could be used to build a supergun, the firm that made them has said.

Sheffield Forgemasters said Bull's Brussels-based Space Research Corporation acted for the Iraqi Ministry of Trade in sewing up the contract. The Canadian artillery expert was shot dead in the Belgian capital last month, apparently by a professional hit-man.

Bull was well-known in arms circles and had worked for the U.S. and Canadian governments. In 1980 he was jailed for violating a U.S. embargo on arms sales to South Africa by selling it an advanced howitzer.

British experts are investigating whether eight massive tubes,

seized by customs last week on the point of being shipped to Iraq, could have been used to build a giant cannon enabling Baghdad to lob nuclear or chemical missiles into Israel or Iran.

Iraq has strenuously denied the allegations and said the cylinders were precision piping for its petroleum industry.

"It has always been accepted by Forgemasters that Space Research Corporation (SRC) had involvement in this contract," Stuart Benson, solicitor for Forgemasters, said in a statement.

He said that the Brussels company had been represented by a man called Cowley and not Bull in negotiating the contract.

Benson repeated that Forgemasters had believed throughout the tubes were intended for Iraq's petrochemical industry.

"Proper inquiries were made regarding the bone fides of SRC; its involvement in the contract, a copy of which was sent to the Department of Trade and Industry, appears quite clearly from documents forming part of the contract," he added.

Though SRC is known for its arms expertise, it has also acted as agent for suppliers to a number of Middle East petrochemical installations.

Forgemasters deny the tubes could be assembled into a giant gun barrel.

"Nobody seems to have taken on board the fact that those eight pieces do not join up to form one piece," spokesman Tony Peck said Sunday.

The eight sections were the last shipment of a 52-piece order. The others have already been delivered to Baghdad.

mad Abdul Hafiz, quoted by Reuters.

Smoke billowed over the city as radio stations pleaded with fire fighters to put out blazing raging in shops, apartments and cars. Hospitals asked for blood donations.

The security sources said a stray mortar bomb hit a school in the Christian area of Ain Al Roumaneh, near the green line, wounding a priest and a woman. Schools in the east have been closed since the inter-Christian fighting erupted Jan. 31.

Prime Minister Salim Al Hosni urged the rival Shi'ites to stop fighting and withdraw from the streets.

Security sources said the foes had agreed to ceasefire at noon but explosions continued to rock the city.

Fighting between Amal and Hizbollah, vying for the leadership of Lebanon's 1.5 million Shi'ites, was sparked on Monday when gunmen killed an Amal official in west Beirut.

Duels flare in east and west Beirut, S. Lebanon

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Clashes raged in west Beirut, the capital's Christian sector and South Lebanon Tuesday as separate power struggles in the Shi'ite Muslim and Christian communities erupted in street battles.

In South Lebanon, the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) clashed with the Nasserite militia controlling the port city of Sidon. Police said one Nasserite was killed and two others wounded.

They said both sides traded hit and run assaults for three hours behind massive artillery barrages around the SLA's most forward positions at Kar Palous in the hills east of Sidon. Each side blamed the other for the flare up.

In Sidon, police said an unidentified gunman went berserk, storming into a business office with a blazing submachine gun in the afternoon.

They said the man killed three employees and wounded two others before killing himself. The

motives behind the attack were not immediately known.

In the Christian sector, troops loyal to renegade General Michel Aoun and Lebanese Forces militia chieftain Samir Geagea skirmished with mortars and machine guns in east Beirut.

No casualties were reported in the clashes that leaders of the Maronite church, which both men belong to, have failed to halt.

By police count, 875 people have been killed and 2,376 wounded in the fight that started Jan. 30.

Police said at least seven people were killed and 38 wounded in savage Shi'ite fighting in west Beirut and the city's southern slums, just one block from the barracks believed to be the most frequent prison for 18 Western hostages.

The clashes later spread to South Lebanon's Iqim Tuffah, where four people were wounded, according to police.

The Shi'ite confrontation pitted the fundamentalist pro-Iranian Hizbollah, against the Syrian-backed, more secular Amal.

Sporadic fighting started a year ago for strategic villages in Iqim Tuffah, stretching from the northern edge of Israel's self-proclaimed security zone to Palestinian bases on Sidon's outskirts.

In west Beirut, fires blazed out of control and smoke billowed from scores of gutted cars in the densely populated district of Bourj Abu Haider as bearded Shi'ite fighters fired rocket-propelled grenades into each others' territories.

Witnesses in west Beirut said hundreds of residents were caught in the crossfire of the fighting.

"We saw gunmen running from corner to corner and shooting at each other. The streets were full of people and buses taking children to schools," said Moham-

mad Abdul Hafiz, quoted by Reuters.

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Egypt to tap Nubian desert water

LONDON — Following Libya's example, Egypt is moving to exploit the massive groundwater reserves trapped beneath the Nubian desert, which straddles Egypt, Libya and Sudan.

Libya is already tapping the reserves on its side of the border for its Great Man-Made River (GMR) project, whose first phase is nearing completion.

In the 1980s, however, Cairo complained that the GMR would deprive Egypt of water since the reserves, although thousands of years old, are seeping extremely slowly in a north easterly direction, moving across Libya into Egypt.

With a rapprochement between Tripoli and Cairo in full swing, however, such claims have been forgotten. Egyptian Public Works and Water Resources Minister Issam Radi has just revealed that studies are now under way on the feasibility of a project to exploit Egypt's Nubian groundwater.

Algeria says democracy is in jeopardy, vows to get tough

ALGIERS (R) — The Algerian government Sunday night vowed to use the full power of the law to preserve public order and a nascent democracy threatened by mounting labour and Muslim fundamentalist unrest.

An angry government statement said recent statements by the official labour union UGTA and the powerful opposition Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) were "dangerous deviations that threaten social stability and the emerging democracy."

The statement, reported by the Algerian News Agency (APS),

came hours after the FIS announced a mass march on the presidential palace Friday to press political demands, likely to include the dissolution of parliament.

The FIS is the main opposition challenger to the ruling National Liberation Front (FLN) in June town and provincial elections, the first multi-party poll in Algeria's post-independence history.

The FLN has called for nationwide counter-demonstrations Friday to denounce fundamentalists for using mosques for political sermons.

"The government is determined to use all means recognised by the law... to maintain public order," the government statement said.

It attacked what it called an alliance of black-market speculators and political adventurers for allegedly speaking the "language of provocation and incitement" for electoral reasons.

The labour union threatened last week to call a general strike to protest the government's reform programme, aimed at liberalising the economy and ending the UGTA monopoly.

U.N. protests at Israeli assaults on clinics

LONDON — The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) has formally protested to the Israeli government over repeated violations of its health centres in the Gaza Strip by Israel's occupation authorities.

In the Feb. 6 - March 1 period alone soldiers and officials entered UNRWA clinics five times, on one occasion ransacking files and interrogating and searching staff, said the Vienna-based agency.

In its last annual report, UNRWA said that its activities were increasingly being hampered by the arrest and detention of its staff. In the year from July 1,

1988 to June 30, 1989, 157 UNRWA personnel were detained, of whom 83 were seized in the Gaza Strip and 49 in the West Bank.

"Many of those staff members complained of beatings and other forms of brutality during their detention," said the report, noting that "in addition, agency staff, including international staff, were subjected to physical abuse and, at times, undisciplined behaviour by Israeli soldiers."

UNRWA has meanwhile announced plans for the construction of a new, 200-bed general hospital near Gaza city, and has launched a special fund-raising campaign for the \$35 million pro-

ject.

In his appeal to potential donors, the agency's Commissioner-General, Giorgio Giacomelli, said that UNRWA's initiative had been "dictated by the serious lack of hospital beds, the deterioration of the services provided by the very limited number of hospitals and the emergency situation created by the intifada."

The Gaza Strip, with a population of 650,000 — including over 480,000 refugees — has only two public hospitals, now administered by the Israeli authorities, and one private hospital — CAABU.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS BRIEFS

Israeli militants threaten rabbi

TEL AVIV (R) — Jewish zealots left a bullet on the doorstep of an Israeli rabbi who backs the Labour Party's plans for Arab-Israeli peace talks. Israeli police said the bullet and a note signed by the shadowy Sicarii group were found in an envelope at the Bnei Brak home of Rabbi Moshe Yehoshua Hager Tuesday.

Hager is head of the Council of Torah Sages which directs the ultra-religious Agudat Israel Party. A Tel Aviv police spokeswoman said the note warned Hager against forcing any Agudat Israel parliamentarianism to vote for a government headed by pro-peace Labour leader Shimon Peres. Agudat Israel signed an agreement with Peres but two of its five legislators quit in protest last week, saying they could not support a coalition dependent on Arab parliamentarians. One of the Agudat Israel members withdrew his resignation after Peres was given more time to form a government. The Sicarii, named after Jewish zealots who killed collaborators with the Romans in Biblical times, have claimed responsibility for arson and bomb attacks on left-wing intellectuals.

Ethiopian rebels captured Israeli radios

NAIROBI (R) — Rebels in northern Ethiopia said on Tuesday they killed 872 government troops and captured Israeli-made radios as they infiltrated a new area of Shoa province last week. A spokesman for the rebel Tigre People's Liberation Front (TPLF) said rebel forces attacked Karakore on the main road north from Addis Ababa to Dessie, capital of Wollo province, last Thursday. Spokesman Tewelde Gabru told Reuters by telephone from London the TPLF and its allies attacked two brigades of army commandos in Karakore, killing 721 soldiers and capturing 351. On Friday rebel forces attacked the nearby town of Degaga, killing 151 government troops and capturing 200. The rebels also captured many weapons and, for the first time, Israeli-made Moterela long-distance radios, he said. The reported seizure appeared to confirm reports that Israel has been supplying military equipment to Ethiopia since the two countries re-established diplomatic relations in November.

Arens delays ties with Bulgaria

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens has postponed plans to visit Bulgaria to sign an agreement restoring diplomatic relations, the Foreign Ministry has said. Foreign Ministry spokesman Yosi Amihud told Reuters that Arens would reschedule the trip within a month, after he had dealt with problems over the formation of Israel's next government. Israel's national unity government, in which Arens' right-wing Likud Bloc shared power with the Labour Party, fell last month over Likud's refusal to accept U.S. proposals for Israeli-Palestinian peace talks in Cairo. Labour leader Shimon Peres was asked to form a new government and both Labour and Likud are now angling for the support of smaller parties in the Knesset (parliament). Amihud said Arens' visit to Bulgaria, arranged two weeks ago, had been expected to start Wednesday.

Malaria cases up sharply in Khartoum

KHARTOUM (AP) — The lack of mosquito spray in Sudan has caused a sharp upsurge in the number of malaria cases, especially in camps near Khartoum housing people displaced by the long southern civil war. Dr. Sadek Mahjoub, the Ministry of Health's director for endemic diseases, said 7,372 people were diagnosed with the insect-borne disease last week. That was almost 2½ times

the 3,000 who contracted malaria in the second week in April 1989. A similar ratio was evident in records for February, the last month in which figures have been compiled. Mahjoub said 33,000 malaria cases were reported, with 25 deaths, compared with 13,741 cases in February 1989. Mahjoub blamed the near epidemic conditions on "absence of spray in the areas of mosquito multiplication" as well as optimum breeding conditions for the disease-carrying insects. The worst-hit areas are in the displaced persons camps on the capital's outskirts, where health conditions are appalling, Mahjoub said.

3 killed in Turkey minibus blast

DERIK, Turkey (AP) — A bomb has exploded in a minibus in this southeastern township, killing three people and wounding 11, the semi-official Anatolia News Agency reported. The agency said four of the wounded were in critical condition. The bomb was concealed in a package that had been handed to the driver by a teenage boy, the agency said. The boy had asked the driver to take the package to one of the villages on the bus route in Mardin province. Anatolia quoted officials as saying they were searching for the boy. Derik is in the region where guerrillas of the Kurdistan Labour Party (PKK) have been fighting for an independent Marxist state since 1984. So far, about 2,500 people have been killed in clashes between the guerrillas and the government troops and in hit-and-run attacks on settlements by the rebels.

Soviet jets in S. Arabia for Koran airlift

JEDDAH, Saudi Arabia (AP) — The first of 30 flights by the Soviet airline Aeroflot arrived to pick up a million copies of the Koran that King Fahd has given to Muslims in the Soviet Union. The operation is being organised by the Mecca-based Muslim World League. This kingdom, which harbours Islam's holiest shrines, has no formal diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union. But the Aeroflot landings in Jeddah are part of growing links outside diplomacy. The atmosphere of freedom in the Soviet Union resulting from the policies of President Mikhail Gorbachev, allowed the royal gift, said the league's secretary-general, Abdullah Omar Naseef. The copies of the Muslim holy book to be sent to the Soviet Muslims were printed in Arabic at the King Fahd Printing Complex in Medina. An additional 600,000 translations of Hadith, or centuries of interpretations of the Koran, in the language of the Turkistan region are being prepared for export. A three-member delegation from the league recently visited the Soviet Union to make arrangements for the distribution.

Demonstrations reported in Tehran

BAGHDAD (R) — Iran's main opposition group said Tuesday its supporters held mass demonstrations over the past three days against the clerical government in Tehran. The Baghdad-based Mujahideen Khalq said in a telex that thousands of demonstrators assembled in Mellat Park in north Tehran "in protest demonstrations against the leaders of the mullahs' regime in Tehran." It quoted reports from the Iranian capital as saying armed guards opened fire to disperse the demonstrators and severely beat up some of them, breaking some arms and legs. The guards arrested a large number of demonstrators on Saturday and Sunday, the statement added. It also said the government press in Tehran "finally broke its silence and reported the arrest of 65 of the demonstrators on Sunday, describing the detainees as 'hooligans'."

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME ONE	PROGRAMME TWO
15:30 Koran	15:30 La Vallée en Carton
15:40 Programme review	15:40 News in French
17:30 Children's programme	19:15 Documentary
17:30 Educational programme	19:30 News in Hebrew
18:00 News summary in Arabic	20:00 News in Arabic
18:30 Local programme	20:30 Laura and Disorder
20:00 News in Arabic	21:10 Houseman Riding by "An Outbreak of Romance"
21:30 Arabic series	
21:30 Arabic programme	
23:00 News in Arabic	
23:40 Play	
	22:00 News in English
	22:20 Alice to Nowhere

PRAYER TIMES

03:36 Fair
04:58 (Sunrise) Daba
11:35 Dhuhr
15:12 'Asr
16:11 Maghreb
19:33 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swetlebs, Tel. 810740
Assembly of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terranova Church Tel. 623466
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541
Anglican Church Tel. 623383, Tel. 637440
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Armenian International Church Tel. 811265
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811265
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Tel. 815817, 654932

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Another rise in temperatures will occur and winds will be southeasterly light to moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY
AMMAN:
Dr. Walid Al Smadi 683266
Dr. Rana Mizzawi 894788
Dr. Wael Dumali 740000
Dr. Hana Mansour 748364
First Pharmacy 661912
Perdons pharmacy 778336
Al Asana pharmacy 637055
Nasrallah pharmacy 636762
Al Sabun pharmacy 630770
Yacoub pharmacy 649495
Shamsan pharmacy 637660
JERUSALEM:
Dr. Rashed Al Sa'ad (—)
Al Shamsa pharmacy (863238)

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Emergency 630341
Rescue Police 199
Fire Brigade 192, 621111, 637777
Blood Bank 891228
Highway Police 75121
Traffic Police 843402
Public Security Department 896390
Hotel Complaints 636800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Amman Municipality 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 77111
Radio Jordan 681000
Water Authority 815615
Jordan Electricity Authority 636381
Company 08-33300
RJ Flight Information 08-33300

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn 642816
Al-Balqa Maternity, J. Amn 624412
Jabal Amman Maternity 656282
Matina, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shamsan 6641714
Shamsan Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845846
Al-Muhsin Hospital 6672219
The Islamic, Abdal 66627157
Al-Ahli, Abdal 6641646
Italian, Al-Mahajra 7771013
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 77511126
Amay, Marba 89161715
Qatun Alia Hospital 60224030
Aqaba Hospital 674155
QATANA:
Zarga Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarga National Hospital (09)991071
Bu Sana Hospital (09)986732
IRBID:
Princess Bama Hospital (02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272775
Bu Al Nafes Hospital (02)247100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
ARRIVALS
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
06:00 Damascus (RJ)
06:00 Jeddah (RJ)
06:00 Larnaca (RJ)
06:00 Cairo (RJ)
06:00 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
06:00 Dhahran, Kuwait (RJ)
06:00 Agaba (RJ)
06:00 Vienna (RJ)
06:00 London (RJ)
06:00 Riyadh (RJ)
06:00 Paris (RJ)
06:00 Vienna, Belgrade (RJ)
06:00 Brussels, Frankfurt (RJ)
06:00 Madrid, Rome (RJ)
06:00 Madrid, Rome (add.) (RJ)
06:00 Belgrade (add.) (RJ)
DEPARTURES
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
06:00 Madrid (add.) (RJ)
06:00 Agaba (RJ)
06:00 Belgrade (add.) (RJ)
06:00 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
06:00 Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
06:00 Riyadh (RJ)
06:00 Paris, London (RJ)
06:00 Kuwait, Dhahran (RJ)
06:00 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
06:00 New Delhi (RJ)
06:00 Cairo (RJ)
06:00 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
06:00 Cologne, Bangkok (RJ)
Other Flights (Terminal 2)
06:00 Rome (AZ)
06:00 Larnaca, Zurich (SZ)
06:00 Beirut (ME)
06:00 Baghdad (IA)
06:00 Jeddah (SV)
06:00 Cairo (MS)
06:00 Bangkok (LN)
Other Flights (Terminal 2)
06:00 Dubai (AZ)
06:00 Baghdad (IA)

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in lbs per 100
Apple 407/440
Banana 407/440
Banana (Mekong) 407/440
Beans 600/500
Cabbage 50/50
Carrot 160/120
Cauliflower 220/180
Cauliflower (large) 160/120
Cucumbers (small) 280/240
Dates 400/330
Eggplant 300/250
Garlic 450/400
Green (per one) 280/240
Grapesfruit 320/280
Lebanese (per one) 150/120
Marrow (large) 120/90
Marrow (small) 120/90
Onion (dry) 200/160
Onion (green) 180/140
Orange (Shamoun) 320/280
Orange (Shamoun) 320/280
Pepper (hot) 220/180
Pepper (sweet) 550/500
Potato 200/160
Spinach 450/400
Squash 450/400
Tomatoes 350/300

Working paper defines form and principles of confederation

By Samir Hiyari
and Issam Qadumani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A senior Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) official said in Amman Tuesday that a working paper submitted by the PLO to the Jordanian government on future relations explicitly defines the form of confederation between Palestine and Jordan.

The working paper deals with such questions as passports and citizenship of Palestinians living in Jordan and other aspects of political, economic and social relations between the two sides," according to Mohammad Milhem, member of the PLO's executive committee.

Milhem said that the working paper will be discussed by His Majesty King Hussein and Palestinian President Yasser Arafat during the latter's current visit to Jordan.

"Arafat's visit is considered the most significant so far and his talks with King Hussein are of paramount importance in view of the issues on the agenda and in the light of the present conditions in the Arab

World," Milhem said in a statement to Al Ra'i and Jordan Times dailies.

Milhem, who is also director of the PLO's Department of Higher Education, said that the meeting between the two leaders is important, coming in the wake of the downfall of the Israeli coalition government and in the light of the ongoing Soviet Jewish immigration into Palestine as well as political developments in the Arab World, especially Israel's open threats to Arab states.

"The working paper in question discusses the form of government in a confederate state, joint institutions and other related topics," Milhem added.

The two leaders' meeting will lay the foundation stone and the main principles for future relations between Palestine and Jordan, Milhem said.

In reply to a question, Milhem warned the Arabs against failure to build up a joint Arab front against Israel. "There is no alternative to a solid front grouping Jordan, Syria, Iraq, Palestine and Egypt to confront Israel's conspiracies and to pre-empt an

Israeli military strike on Iraq and other frontline states," Milhem pointed out.

"There is dire need for bolstering the defences of the frontline states confronting Israel including Iraq which is now considered as a frontline state," Milhem added.

Referring to Palestinian-Syrian relations, Milhem said they were on their way for improvement in the wake of a visit to Damascus by Deputy Prime Minister Marwan Al Qasem, and following a visit to Syria by the wife of the late PLO leader Khalil Al Wazir.

Milhem defended the PLO's call for a peaceful solution and said the PLO made the bid from a position of strength based on the intifada inside the occupied Palestinian lands.

He said that no peace can be achieved without negotiations.

The question of a confederate state was raised Saturday by the PLO officials Mahmoud Abbas and Abdullah Hourani at a meeting with Prime Minister Mudar Badran. Abbas and Hourani arrived here last week to prepare the way for Arafat's visit to Jordan.



The Islamic-Christian Committee meets in Amman Tuesday (Petra photo)

Muslims, Christians rally to condemn Israeli aggression

AMMAN (Petra) — The Islamic-Christian committee which convened Tuesday at the headquarters of the Jerusalem general Islamic conference condemned the Israeli practices and the occupation of the holy shrines of the Greek Orthodox church in Arab Jerusalem.

The committee announced at the meeting its denunciation of the violence against Patriarch Diodoros I and other Christian clergymen who were defending their religious rights and were confronting the aggression which forms a clear violation of the religious and moral values.

The violence against Christian clergymen followed a protest by the Greek Orthodox church against a new Jewish settlement in the Christian quarter of Jerusalem's old city. Israeli police used force against the clerics protesting the move of about 150 Jewish settlers into the St. John's Hospice owned by the Greek Orthodox church.

"This aggression forms a new phase in the series of

Zionist attacks on holy Islamic and Christian shrines, and it reminds of the attacks on Al Aqsa Mosque and other religious places in order to end the Muslim and Christian existence and to undermine the status of Jerusalem, the committee said. The committee said that the religious freedom cannot be secured under Israeli occupation.

"What makes the aggression seem worse is that it was carried out with help from Israeli officials, municipal authorities and the police, which shows the Zionist covert plan against religions in general, and against the national religious sects in particular, said the committee.

The committee criticised the U.S. stand on the issue and said it was a main reason behind encouraging Zionism in achieving its plans.

"The position of the U.S. Congress and the international campaign led by the U.S. to clear Zionism from its racist character is a main reason behind encouraging Zionism

plans," the committee said.

It added that the leaders of the U.S. administration and the Congress should revise their biased policy, to make it in accordance with the status of the U.S. as a superpower that has special responsibility in maintaining justice and human rights in the world.

The committee voiced its deep sorrow over the Soviet Union's responding to American pressures to encourage the immigration of Soviet Jews to settle on the land of Palestine.

It called on the leaders of the Soviet Union to realise the real dimensions of the crimes committed against peaceful people, who had friendly relations with them and asked them to stop this just, aggressive invasion before the Arab-Soviet relations were affected.

The committee said the campaign against Iraq comes in concord with the Zionist aggressive plan which is trying to distort the image of the Arabs, and it praised Iraq's steadfastness in the face of the campaign.

First toxic waste dumping site chosen

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment has decided to set up a 1000-dunum plot of land to serve as a site for dumping toxic waste, and a recommendation has been made in connection with this to the Council of Ministers for approval, according to a report in Al Ra'i Arabic daily.

The site, located south of Swaga, in the southern regions of Amman is considered accessible from all parts of the country, according to the report.

Abdul Karim Al Dughmi said the ministry, in cooperation with the Department of Lands and Survey would demarcate the site and seal it off to ensure public safety before practical steps can be taken to dump the toxic material.

The ministry, last February, said it was defining several areas around the Kingdom for dumping

dangerous waste. "Specialists have drawn up plans for the pits in which the waste will be dumped and all the sites will be cordoned off to prevent any agricultural, human or animal contact with them," the ministry announced.

The report was the first indication of one of these sites chosen for dumping the waste which is turned out from numerous factories in Amman and Zarqa.

According to the ministry's announcement, technical teams have studied the geological, hydrological and other aspects of the dumping ground to prevent any leakage of chemical or poisonous materials to underground water resources. It said that the dumping areas are located far away from bedouin settlements and wadis or agricultural lands.

The report said that several Parliament members have been

involved in the selection of the dumping area along with representatives of the Water Authority, the Ministry of Health and the Badia police force.

Jordan was one of 110 countries that signed an international agreement on controlling the process of dumping dangerous waste at a meeting held in Switzerland March 20, 1989.

Last November, a five-day regional consultation meeting on control and disposal of hazardous waste was held in Amman with the participation of delegates from 11 countries. The seminar reviewed problems related to the increase in the amount of waste material stored, transported or disposed off in the Arab countries and issued a set of recommendations about precautionary measures to minimise dangers of toxic materials.



Ministry seeks to provide health services to all

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Health is concerned with providing health services to citizens everywhere through its health centres and clinics all over the Kingdom, Minister of Health Muhammad Addoub Al Zaben said Tuesday.

In a tour, which included health centres in Hasbani, Jarina, Madaba, Ma'in, Al Arid, Mulkah, and Thaban in Madaba district, the minister said his tour was a continuation of inspection visits to different administrative units to follow Amman governorate to know the needs of citizens in each city and village.

Zaben said that the ministry is concerned with health education and is holding seminars and educational courses for workers at health centres, particularly for dentists.

The minister decided to form a special committee headed by Madaba district governor to study district's health needs.

Zaben also promised to study possibility of opening X-ray and first aid clinics and laboratories in the health centres in the district in accordance with the ministry's capabilities.

Madaba District Governor Saleh Al Tarasheh delivered a speech in which he reviewed the achievements accomplished in the district in the past.

Innovation saves 30 per cent to farmers

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Royal Scientific Society (RSS) researcher has succeeded in developing a multilayer transparent film for agricultural purposes which contains up to 60 per cent recycled polyethylene materials.

Dr Amin Rubaidi, head of the RSS Material Science Division at the Mechanical Design and Technology Centre, says that in the past two decades, the use of plastic films for greenhouse applications has increased steadily in Jordan.

Imports in the form of films and pellets necessary for local production have constituted a strain on foreign currency reserves. In addition, their present disposal practice are adversely affecting the environment.

The general objectives of the project was to improve the quality and durability of plastic films manufactured in Jordan and to develop and produce multilayer plastic films incorporating used, recycled ones.

The project was designed to upgrade the technical and manufacturing capabilities of local plastic industries. The project's novel concept proposes the incorporation of discarded, used plastic films in the manufacturing of new multilayer films for greenhouse applications.

It has the potential of not only saving badly needed foreign currency by reducing imports but will also benefit the Jordanian farming community by ultimately

decreasing the cost and increasing the service life of plastic films. In addition, it has also the potential of contributing to the elimination of the environmental pollution caused by the current practices of used films disposal.

The production of plastic film based on blends of plastic waste with virgin resin is a common practice in the industry. However, most of the recycled plastic waste is either industrial scrap from the same manufacturing facilities or one which underwent limited exterior exposure. The RSS research dealt with blends incorporating used plastic films extensively exposed to weathering effects.

Dr. Rubaidi says that the developed film will be more than 30 per cent cheaper than that virgin one.

The project was a collaboration project between the Plastic and Rubber Laboratory at the Royal Scientific Society, Jordan and the Department of Chemical Engineering at McGill University, Canada, and was funded by the International Development Research Center (IDRC) in Canada.

An extension of the project was recently funded and approved by IDRC. The extension was to be carried out jointly with the National Research Centre in Egypt to utilise the laboratory-scale findings and results in an industrial scale production.

Arafat's schedule

(Continued from page 1)

"I don't have anything to say," said the red-faced prime minister, who got into a car and sped off to meet Arafat at Jordan's guest palace in Amman.

Police and intelligence agency cars with flashing lights blocked one of Amman's main streets as the prime minister arrived, with a motorcade of other officials in tow, to greet Arafat.

But Arafat was still at Queen Alia Airport, waiting for an official to receive him. The interior minister, Salem Massadeh, finally showed up.

Erratic schedules are literally a way of life for Arafat, who depends upon unpredictability to avoid repeated assassination attempts by Israel or by rivals within the Palestinian movement.

As in Monday's case, security often comes before relations with important friends.

Anderson was the key intermediary in the 1988 U.S. decision to end a 13-year boycott of talks with the PLO.

Arafat later told reporters in Amman that there was no plan to meet Anderson in Cairo because he had already had the talks with him in Tunisia.

Firms offer to set up tourist camp

AMMAN (J.T.) — Fourteen local firms have submitted applications to the Ministry of Tourism to set up a tourist camp along the Yarmouk beach of Aqaba to absorb more tourists to the port city, Minister of Tourism Abdul Karim Al Kabariti said in an interview with a local newspaper Tuesday.

"The projected plans, according to the bids, would include chalets, small hotels and restaurants among other basic services to the visitors," Kabariti said in a statement published in Al Dustour daily.

The tourist camp, he said, is badly needed to cope with the increased number of tourists who converge on Aqaba specially in the winter.

In Aqaba during autumn and winter the hotels are usually fully booked. "From now and until the end of August, and reservations for 16,000 Italian tourists have been cancelled largely due to lack of room," the minister said.

"Jordan has not been able to put into force tourist agreements concluded with Egypt because of lack of facilities to absorb thousands of tourists who would otherwise be crowding into the port city after visiting tourist sites in Sinai and Egypt," the minister added.

"The Ministry of Tourism has now submitted to the council of ministers an amendment to the tourism law, which would allow more investments in hotels and tourist facilities in Aqaba," Kabariti said.

The Ministry of Tourism has also received applications from 11 firms to set up three large hotels in Petra providing a total of 450 rooms; and one of Jordan's major companies is currently building a 144-room hotel in the port city to make way for badly needed facilities," the minister added.

Earlier this month, Kabariti said the Ministry of Tourism was now turning its attention to encouraging domestic tourism as well and, in cooperation with local transport companies, will shortly start a programme of visits for Jordanians to see tourist and archaeological sites in Jordan.

"The programme will start in May and fees to be paid by visitors should cover transportation in airconditioned buses to and from the sites, meals and other services like visits to museums," the minister said.

Oil and gas prospecting continues in the Kingdom

By Samir Hiyari
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Thabet Al Taher revealed in a statement to the Jordan Times and Al Ra'i that the Kingdom produces up to 400 barrels of crude oil and around 10 million cubic feet of natural gas on a daily basis, but the quest will continue to find ampler supplies.

Taher said that oil prospecting takes place through the Natural Resources Authority (NRA) which is currently implementing a national oil exploration programme and through the help of oil firms operating in the country.

One of the foreign firms is the Petra-Canada International Assistance Corporation which last February signed an agreement with the government to expand its current oil and gas exploration in the Kingdom.

In the process, the Canadian firm will be supplying at least \$12.5 million bringing to \$31.2 million the company's contribution to NRA.

Sweden, Jordan to hold seminar on marketing

AMMAN (J.T.) — As a consequence to the Swedish State visit to Jordan during September 1989 and as an effort to promote Jordanian exports to Sweden, a seminar on marketing will be organised in Amman during May 7-8, 1990 by the Amman Chamber of Industry and the Federation of Swedish Commerce and Trade (FOSCAT) under the umbrella of the Embassy of Sweden in Amman.

After having had similar seminars carried out in almost twenty different developing countries, Jordan as a newly industrialised country will be the first Arab country to cooperate with Sweden and have this seminar organised in Jordan.

Sponsored by the Swedish Import Promotion Office for Products from Developing Countries (IMPOD), Sweden will be present at the seminar with four experts who will conduct active and flexible representations and discussions with the Jordanian industrialists and other interested and relevant parties on Sweden as a potential market for Jordanian products.

"NRA has worked out a national programme to find oil and natural gas but cooperation with Iraq and Egypt will continue in oil exploration operations," the minister said.

In January Taher said that the NRA started drilling gas well number 18 at Al Risheh district near the border with Iraq where all indications point to the presence of a vast deposit of natural gas that could be used for power generation purposes.

Several foreign companies are now prospecting for oil in Azraq, the Dead Sea, Wadi Araba the northern Jordan Valley and Al Jafer regions under NRA supervision, according to Taher.

Taher referred to future cooperation between countries of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) which groups Iraq, Jordan, Egypt and North Yemen and the countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) whose members are all oil producers, and said "the two blocs complement each other and there is plenty of room for cooperation between them not only in oil and gas production but also in exploring other mineral resources."

Ministry of Education prepares to join Earth Day celebrations

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Education has made ample preparations for participating in Earth Day activities which begin in Jordan Saturday under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor Al Hussein, according to Hassan Alaudin director of student affairs at the Ministry of Education.

"Jordan will be joining more than a 100 countries around the world in Earth Day activities designed to emphasise the protection of nature and the environment; and students from government schools have been instructed to take part in these activities," Alaudin was quoted as saying Saturday.

"The programme includes a clean-up campaign in which the students will be involved in clearing away rubbish along the desert highway and the Queen Alia International Airport highway," he said.

"Other groups of students will be involved in cleaning the Mafraq-Azraq road and others will work on the Zarqa-Muwaqqar highway in a similar mission, Alaudin said in a statement.

He said that all departments of education in Jordan have been instructed to arrange for students'

participation in the campaign and to arrange for special lectures at schools to draw students' attention to the need for maintaining a clean and tidy country.

The Department of Education at North Shuneh in the Jordan Valley announced Tuesday that hundreds of students will be involved in the two-day clean-up campaign in the Jordan Valley. "The cleaning will take place at public gardens, main streets and other public areas," the department announced.

The campaign, on a nationwide scale, will be spearheaded by the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature, and a special Earth Day committee chaired by Her Majesty Queen Noor.

The campaign will involve the participation of representatives of various ministries, government departments and public and private institutions.

Among other parties involved are the Royal Scientific Society and the Aqaba Port Authority.

Apart from collecting and removing garbage and old tyres, teams will hang posters and distribute leaflets spreading awareness among the public on the need for protecting the environment and preventing pollution.

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

Royal Decree endorses allowances system

AMMAN (Petra) — A Royal Decree was issued Tuesday endorsing the allowances system of the Social Security Corporation employees issued according to article 76 of the social security law. The law defines all allowances for employees in different classes.

Jordanian delegation to take part in APU

AMMAN (Petra) — A Jordanian parliamentary delegation headed by Lower House of Parliament Speaker Suleiman Arar will leave for Baghdad Wednesday to take part in the Arab Parliamentary Union (APU) extraordinary conference which was called for by the Iraqi parliamentary session to discuss the European Parliamentary Union's stand towards Iraq and the Arab Nation. The Jordanian delegation will include Senator Saad Al Tal, Deputy Nayef Abu Tayeh, Deputy Abdullah Zureiqat and the director of the parliament speaker's office, Khaled Al Samhouri.

Engineers to have status readjusted

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordanian engineers employed by public institutions will have their status readjusted in accordance with the Civil Service Commission classification system, according to a decision taken by the Council of Ministers Tuesday. A statement following a Cabinet meeting Tuesday said that the rule applies to all engineers employed on contract before March 1985. The Cabinet also announced its approval of regulations set by the Civil Service Commission on selecting employees to fill government positions and approved a system that would grant employees with higher university degrees special allowances provided they had been appointed in their posts before January 1, 1988.

Lecture on drugs delivered in Irbid

IRBID (Petra) — The Orphans Fund Director General Abdul Salam Al Abbadi Tuesday delivered a lecture on the role of Islam in combating drugs. Abbadi said that the solution to drug problems lies in returning to the divine message of Islam. He affirmed the importance of establishing full coordination between all society's institutions to prevent delinquency.

Seminar held in Ramtha

RAMTHA (Petra) — The effects of Irbid waste water treatment plant on neighbouring areas and the effects of moving the building housing border authorities and customs to another site were the main topics under discussion in a seminar held Tuesday at Ramtha Chamber of Commerce. Deputies Salim Al Zu'bi and Mohammad Al Dardour took part in the seminar which also tackled the problem of unemployment.

Minister inspects work at road projects

MAFRAQ (Petra) — Minister of Public Works and Housing Abdul Raouf Al Rawabdeh Tuesday inspected work at road projects in the eastern areas of Al Mafraq governorate. The minister studied the prospect of connecting by road Baria and Al Harash areas and asked the concerned authorities to take the necessary measures to prepare for the project.

American Centre celebrates Earth Day

AMMAN (J.T.) — In celebration of Earth Day, the American Cultural Centre in Amman will host a public lecture, Wednesday at 2:00 p.m., by Abdullah Ahmad, environmental officer at USAID, on "Global Resources and the Jordanian Environment." The lecture will be in Arabic. All interested persons are welcome to attend.

People's Army graduation held in Mafraq

MAFRAQ (Petra) — A new batch of female recruits of the People's Army in Al Mafraq governorate graduated Tuesday. The graduation ceremony included drills with light arms. At the end of the ceremony the People's Army Commander distributed awards to winners.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITION

★ Exhibition of paintings by Faisal Al Zu'bi at Yarmouk University.

THEATRE

★ Musical version of Ali Baba by the New English School at the Royal Cultural Centre — 8:30 p.m.

LECTURES

★ Lecture entitled "Islamic Timing and Modern Technology" by Dr. Ali Abanda at the Royal Cultural Centre — 8:30 p.m.
★ Lecture, in Arabic, on global resources and the Jordanian environment by Abdullah Ahmad at the American Centre — 2:00 p.m.

Jordan Times

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Euphrates accord is a building stone

THE JUST concluded Syrian-Iraqi agreement on the fair distribution of the waters of the Euphrates River is a good omen for the future relations between the two Arab countries. The accord is so important that it could very well be the harbinger of more far-reaching agreements between the sister states. The fact that Syria and Iraq were able to agree now on such a strategic subject after failing to do so for so many years does indeed suggest that a new era in Iraqi-Syrian relations is about to begin. What better way to respond to the new dangers to the Arab Order than to have the Eastern Front come alive once again. Given the new ominous developments in the Middle East region, not to mention the new international order that ensued from the relaxation of the East-West relations, there is a growing need for developing an Arab defensive posture commensurate with the projected Israeli threats. Swelling Israeli population to new levels, introducing nuclear and thermonuclear weapons by Israel, and the refusal of Tel Aviv to engage the Palestinian people with meaningful negotiations are landmark signals that more difficult times in the Middle East are in the offing.

And with the Syrians and Iraqis agreeing on the waters of the Euphrates River, the final tripartite agreement comprising Turkey, Syria and Iraq can now become within reach. The elusive Syrian-Iraqi agreement on the Euphrates River has been thus far a major hurdle in the face of a comprehensive treaty on the international river. Ankara has often voiced concern at the lack of agreement between Syria and Iraq over the rights to the waters of the river that originates from the eastern part of Turkey. As a matter of fact, relations between Damascus and Baghdad had reached a boiling point in the past over differences on the just and equitable use of the waters of the Euphrates.

That is why this Syrian-Iraqi agreement is truly a milestone not only in terms of Syrian-Iraqi relations but rather in terms of Arab relations in general. What needs to be done now in the wake of this Syrian-Iraqi breakthrough is additional consolidation of the goodwill and sense of brotherhood generated by it. Amman and Cairo have left no stone unturned to put Syrian-Iraqi relations on the right course and it now appears that their efforts may just be beginning to bear fruit.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

AL RA'I Arabic daily on Tuesday attributed the change in the American Congress's views about a recent decision considering Jerusalem as the united capital of Israel largely to Jordan's efforts. King Hussein who has earlier brought the question of Jerusalem to the attention of the world community, pointing out the danger inherent in Israel's annexation of Arab Jerusalem has succeeded in exposing Israel's plans and caused the leader of the U.S. Congress delegation to declare that the Senate's decision was a blunder, the paper noted. Senator Dole made the statements in Israel following his talks in Amman with King Hussein and after learning the Arab views concerning a just and durable Middle East settlement, the paper noted. The Jordanian moves world-wide prompted even some Israeli leaders to say that the U.S. Senate's decision was wrong and untimely, the paper added. It said that Jordan launched its diplomatic offensives once it was clear that the Soviet Jews immigrating into Palestine formed a real danger to the Arab Nation and once it became clear that the Zionist leaders were determined to create a greater Israel. This fact, the paper added, should make it clear to the Arabs that hostility they are facing now is partly due to their failures to bring to the attention of the world community the real facts about the situation in our area and to advocate Arab causes in international circles.

With due respect to Senator Dole and his nice words about Jerusalem, his statements can never bring about a real change in the U.S. administration's stand and his recommendation of cutting by five per cent U.S. aid to Israel could go unnoticed by the U.S. Congress, says columnist Tareq Meserweh Tuesday. The writer says Dole's words and statements can never bring about an improvement to a rotten system like that of the U.S. Congress and Senate which are more backward than many Third World countries' systems. No decision by the Congress will change the facts about the situation in the occupied Palestinian land and transform Jerusalem as the united capital of Israel unless the Arabs have the will to struggle and shatter this decision and its effects, the writer notes. He says that decreasing or abolishing U.S. aid to the Jewish state can never restore the holy city or the rest of the occupied lands to their lawful owners if they merely continue to beg the world for help. We believe that Palestine is ours and that Dole can never bring it back without our own struggle without fear of war, the writer adds. He says that there is no reason for thanking Senator Dole for his statements because he is not doing us any favour but rendering a service to his own country.

Al Dustour daily commented on Baghdad's reiteration that it will strike at Israel should the latter launch an aggression on Iraqi territory. The paper said that the Iraqi leader has irrevocably declared his country's intention to retaliate in the event of an aggression and made this clear to the visiting U.S. Senate delegation so that its members can relay this warning to the Israeli government. The Iraqi forces have already received orders to react swiftly and immediately once the Israelis launched their attack on Iraq and there is no question about Iraq's determination to carry out its threat in the event of an Iraqi aggression, the paper added. The paper said that the Iraqi armed forces possess a great potential and military might and therefore are capable of placing Israel face to face with the moment of truth. For the Arabs, the paper concluded, this warning to the Jewish state is a source of pride for all Arab citizens.

Economic Forum

Floating interest rates revisited

By Dr. Abdalla Malki

IN ECONOMICS, we are not short of theories. What we need most is to know which theories are good for a particular country and for a particular situation. Surely, the best way to adjudicate a theory is to apply it.

At a time when the whole world is drifting steadily to market economy the virtues of market forces hardly need emphasising or convincing. Sometimes there is more than one version of a given theory. The basic differentiation in this context is the one to be made between theories appropriate to advanced countries on the one hand and developing countries on the other.

Take interest rates. Interest is the price of capital and must therefore be left to be determined by market forces if the resulting rates are not to be

distortive to economic activity. Fair enough. If we are speaking of distortion, the implicit assumption will be that we are starting from a perfect market situation which is typical of an advanced economy. But if the market is imperfect, a situation that typifies developing economies, the theory must be differently tailored. Failure to allow for this difference may be fatal.

Abundant liquidity in the economy signals strong supply where interest rates tend to skid down. In a reversed situation, liquidity declines and interest rates edge up. This is normative economics. With positive economics we take the extra step of trying to counteract the dictates of supply and demand forces so as to steer interest rates in the directions warranted by the business cycle or the current level of economic activity.

Where this cycle is not apparent or identifiable, our guidelines are the goals of current economic policies. Now, interest rates in Jordan are floating. What are the analytical implications of this situation?

If there is excessive liquidity at a given time, interest on deposits will be depressed. But if current economic policy is interested in propping up these rates on the belief that higher rates encourage savings and the switching of foreign currency deposits into dinar deposits, that policy must be capable of influencing the liquidity in such a way as to force rates up. Otherwise floating interest rates would be an erroneous act of economic policy. The relevant point is therefore whether economic policy in de-

veloping countries commands the necessary armoury of appropriate policy instruments rather than which are smarter: floating or unfloating interest rates.

If the liquidity situation tightens and rates on loans start to creep up as to restrain development finance or push interest on housing loans to critical levels which destabilise the budget of average Jordanian households and threaten their economic security, the economic policy must be able to check rising interest rates. Otherwise, floating interest rates will also be an erroneous act no matter what the textbook interest rate theories preach.

In the long run, the releasing of interest rates to move freely up and down with demand and supply forces could very well

lead to the survival of the fittest in the crudest and coldest sense of the word. But how many corpses will have been accumulated by then in the economic and social battlefield? That is the question which ought to be raised and well-answered in the context of opting for floating or unfloating interest rate policies and adhering to the initial option.

Practically, what we have now in Jordan is a system of managed float and not a purely floating interest rate system. Banks are awash with liquidity. What does that precisely mean: oversupply of domestic savings or inflow of foreign savings, that is foreign lending to residents? Or does it mean that the private sector is very reluctant to borrow, implying

sluggish investment and thereby looming economic depression or at least a deepening of economic recession notwithstanding the economic correction programme?

In the latest periodical meeting held on April 5, 1990 between the Central Bank officials and leading bankers, the governor of the Central Bank of Jordan, Dr. Mohammad Said Nabulsi, noted that the interbank interest rates were declining while rates on deposits showed no signs of rising. This constituted a trend incompatible with the current monetary goal of raising interest on deposits so as to enhance savings. It offers an excellent opportunity to test whether we can influence floating interest rates and judge how good this system is to Jordan.

Power of Nepal's king reduced

KATHMANDU — (R) — In just one week, Nepal's King Birendra has surrendered all but the legal form of the absolute power he wielded in his remote Himalayan kingdom.

Born 20th in the Shah dynasty of the former princely state of Gorkha, 10th of his line to rule all Nepal, Birendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev inherited the world's only Hindu kingdom in 1972, barely 20 years after it was opened to the world.

Many illiterate villagers revere him as a descendant of the Hindu God Vishnu. Kathmandu's middle classes respected him as a national symbol for an impoverished rectangle of land locked between the regional superpowers of India and China.

Now the king is racing to meet the demands of Nepal's people as they concern years of political development into days.

On April 8, Birendra lifted a 30-year ban on political parties, abruptly conceding the first demand of the Movement for Restoration of Democracy, which his government had fought with police batons and bullets.

The MRD, which groups the Liberal Nepali Congress Party with Communist factions, immediately called off their campaign.

The people of the Kathmandu valley did not

accuse the politicians of betraying the dozens who died in the seven-week MRD campaign, they demanded the immediate scrapping of the non-party Panchayat system of elected councils whose advice the king could take or reject at will.

On April 16, Birendra scrapped the key elements of the Panchayat system.

He has yet to scrap the constitution which declares: "The sovereignty of Nepal is vested in his majesty and all powers — executive, legislative and judicial — emanate from him."

But he has promised a constitutional reform commission will be set up and his concessions of the past eight days have reduced these absolute powers to theory.

"The king himself is generally regarded as benign," said a Western diplomat recently.

The most radical opinion in Kathmandu endorsed the view. Underground student cartoons depicted a middle-aged monarch with horn-rimmed glasses, his moustache confined to a muzzle controlled by his queen, Aishwarya Rajya Laxmi Devi Shah.

She was the target of widespread but unsubstantiated rumours of vast wealth piled up at the royal palace of a nation where average annual income per head is \$160.

She was blamed for surrounding him with advisers who kept him 200 kilometres from the capital, at Pokhara, inspecting development projects funded by the West, while the Kathmandu valley witnessed police shooting demonstrators.

Born in Kathmandu on December 28, 1945, Birendra is the first of Nepal's rulers to get a formal education — eight years at a Jesuit school in Darjeeling, India, five at England's prestigious Eton College, a brief spell at the University of Tokyo and a

year at Harvard where he studied political theory, development economics and social problems.

As crown prince, in 1970 Birendra was put in charge of an agency called the Investigation Centre where he displayed a youthful determination to get results from a tradition-bound, slow-moving bureaucracy.

He travelled widely in the world before ascending the throne on the death of his father, Mahendra, on Jan. 31, 1972.

He was always shrouded by a mystique that left even senior diplomats baffled as to how much he chose to wield his powers.

Those who won the rare honour of an audience were required to remove their shoes, remain standing and speak, with a bow, only when spoken to.

Many reported that behind the solemn facade they found a hard-working sovereign trying on his own terms to free Nepal from the top rankings of the world's poorest nations.

The spring of 1979 saw demonstrations by students and workers against arbitrary government officials, corruption, inflation and the failure of fulfil rising expectations.

A small riot in Kathmandu persuaded the king to announce a referendum on whether to continue with the panchayats or to replace them with a multi-party system.

The panchayats won by a narrow margin in 1980 referendum, which party politicians said was rigged.

In 1985 a series of bombings rocked the capital. The king ordered a crackdown on students and political activists.

He released some in 1988. This and other liberal gestures failed to satisfy the politicians.

Black U.S. Muslims are doing the right thing

By Sylvester Monroe

NOT too long ago, the get-together in South Central Los Angeles would have been as difficult to imagine as a summit between Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X. Last week 125 members of the First African Methodist Episcopal Church, the oldest and most influential black congregation in the city, travelled to a nearby mosque to worship with so-called black Muslims from the Nation of Islam. The following night the Muslims reciprocated by attending a service at the church.

The purpose was not to argue about "dogma and doctrine," said A.M.E. pastor Cecil Murray, "but ask what we can do jointly to help take our community back from drugs and crime." Such meetings, says Khalid Abdul Muhammad, special assistant to Muslim leader Louis Farrakhan, "put us into a position where black people are now turning to us for leadership."

Less than a decade ago, many blacks regarded the Nation of Islam as little more than bow-tied black nationalists, peddling bean pies and hawking newspapers on street corners from Harlem to Watts. While they commanded respect for their neat appearance and abstinence from cigarettes, alcohol and drugs, the Muslims' rigid religious strictures and separatist political views kept them on the fringes of mainstream black America.

But today the Muslims have quietly established themselves as a welcome presence in black neighbourhoods. They have cleaned up a drug-infested

Washington apartment complex and run a model drug-treatment programme on its premises. They have earned the respect and cooperation of gang members in Los Angeles and run effective anticrime patrols in New York City, Chicago, Detroit and Atlanta.

The well-disciplined Muslims are becoming role models for a generation of black youth. "The problem of confronting gang violence and drugs is the responsibility of the black male," says Joseph H. Duff, president of the Los Angeles branch of the NAACP. "And Muslims have always been a symbol of strong black manhood." In Los Angeles more than 1,000 black men, many of them former gang members, have recently joined the Nation of Islam. One new recruit is James Johnson, 18. "They told me how we were killing ourselves and showed me what's really going on in society," says Johnson. "Minister Farrakhan has a way of getting your attention."

Farrakhan's harsh rhetoric and anti-Semitic remarks have frightened whites and obscured the impact of the Nation's work in the black community. But his firebrand approach has also won over some blacks. "He is respected in the black community for his audacity," says Howard University political science professor Ronald Walters. "Supporting Farrakhan has become a way of hitting back at the system and expressing black public opinion." Says Abdul Wazir Muhammad, Minister of the Muslims' Los Angeles Mosque: "We are a barometer of the conditions and feel of the black community. If

you really want to know how black people feel, then watch the Muslims."

Farrakhan's voice and the impact of his group's antirug and anticrime work are resonating far beyond the boundaries of the Nation of Islam. Black filmmaker Spike Lee has spotlighted Farrakhan in his two most recent movies, School Daze and Do the Right Thing, and rap artists like Public Enemy, Big Daddy Kane and others are now wearing the Islamic star and crescent.

And while black audiences have long been willing to support the Nation of Islam by flocking to hear Farrakhan's razor-sharp speeches, many people are not becoming just as willing to stand with his followers in the streets. When repeated clashes between Muslims and Los Angeles police and sheriffs resulted in the shooting death of a 27-year-old Muslim last January, many mainstream black organisations rallied to support the group, something that had rarely happened in the past.

Even the police are beginning to look at the Muslims in a different light. After the confrontations in January, leaders of the Nation of Islam and several black organisations met with law-enforcement brass to ease the tensions between them. As a result, the Los Angeles Police Department and county sheriffs developed training films to educate officers on the Nation of Islam. "We now have a very positive working relationship with them," says deputy chief William Rathburn, commander of the LAPD's South Bureau. Time magazine.

LETTERS

Non-violent protest

To the Editor:

Mr. Atiyeh's letter about the protest Organised by the ADC against the U.S. senators' stand on the Middle East (Jordan Times, April 15, 1990) surprises me.

The protest, as planned by the ADC, was meant to be silent. We all knew that. If Mr. Atiyeh had wanted to protest in a different way why did he not organise one of his own? We should give the ADC credit for organising a protest which showed the U.S. senators that there are many people in Jordan who wish to show their anger and opposition in a certain way. I thought the organisers were extremely polite and dignified. What used Mr. Atiyeh have had them do? Shout insults and use physical violence? We were there from 9.30 to 11.30 and found everyone very friendly and polite and we were certainly not brainwashed in any way. The banner that was taken from one of the children was not, in my opinion, offensive, but if the organisers were not happy with the message, it seems to me that they have the right to take it away.

As for the chanting, when it started many people in the crowd started hushing them up as the whole point of the protest was that it would be one of silence and peace.

Mr. Atiyeh's whole attitude puzzles me. Would he have preferred the protest to have degenerated into an undignified exchange of insults and maybe physical violence?

P. Sakti,
Amman.

Distinguishing between bad and good

To the Editor

I READ a complaint from one of Sami Kamal's fans in the Jordan Times (April 15), in which the fan advises Radio Jordan to reconsider its decision and reinstate the DJ at the station for the fun and amusement he brought to many listeners.

Regardless of Sami's qualifications, dear fan, your letter and mine will make little impression, I am sure, on the decision-makers at Radio Jordan, because they either cannot distinguish between bad and good, or they simply don't care.

In my opinion, Sami Kamal is a highly talented person. It is not he who will suffer. It is Radio Jordan's popularity that will. My advice to you, dear Sami, is never to look back. Remember that they are the ones who let you down. Go abroad and come back only when it is time. Time to be employed on a true competitive basis, for what a person is not for who he is.

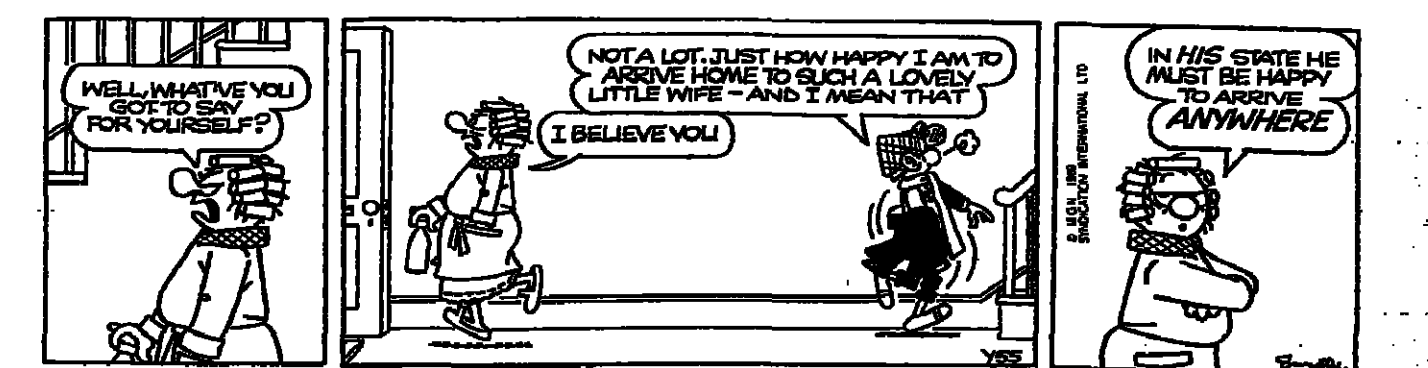
It is true that our country has politically democratised, but it still lives under an evil social rule that is called nepotism.

Ibrahim Alhiyari
P.O. Box 961022
Amman — Jordan

Mutt'n'Jeff



Andy Capp



Peanuts



OUT OF FOCUS

Expensive juice on a dry highway

By Adnan Aql Sa'Id

THE OTHER DAY I was riding with a friend along the main Amman-Aqaba highway. Both of us were a little impatient since we had to reach Ma'an early.

"Do you have any wasta with police?" asked my friend taking her eyes off the road for a moment. "What for?" I asked. "If I speed and get caught you will have to fix them," she said.

Before I could reply that I did not have that kind of connections nor did I think such wasta worked, we were flagged down by a traffic policeman. Sure enough, it was a speed trap. Both of us got out, went to the police car parked nearby to join several others awaiting their turn and talking to three other policemen inside the car.

"A lemon or an orange?" asked one of the policemen who was busy collecting money and issuing receipts. One of them at the back was writing pink tickets for speeding. The strange question over fruits was obviously directed at one of his colleagues. "It's a lemon," came the reply from the colleague, who had his ears clamped to a walkie-talkie. "One hundred and three for the Mercedes."

It took a minute before the idea sank in that it was the rate of speed for one of the cars trapped by radar control and that the exact speed of the car and speed limit of the zone are pertinent to determining the fine. "Five dinars," said the writing policeman, collected a five, issued a receipt and handed over the ticket and license.

"Again it's a lemon," shouted the policeman with the walkie-talkie. "One hundred and two for the Opel."

The fine-collecting process was repeated, but this time the driver of the Opel tried to argue that as far as he could remember the sign post further back on the road said it was a 100-kilometre zone. "Drive back, check again and come back to pay the fine," he was told by one of the policemen. "I don't have to check," replied the driver. "I know."

"Are you telling us that you know better than us, who are here almost every day?" came an angry retort from the policeman. "You had better pay."

And then it was my friend's turn. She produced her driver's license and vehicle license and kept a five ready.

"It's an orange," came the shout. "One hundred and fourteen for the Honda."

"Ten dinars please," said the cash collector, preparing himself to write a receipt.

"Why?" asked my friend. "Why five dinars from everyone and ten from me?"

"Because you were driving at 114 kilometres in a 90-kilometre zone," came the reply. "Others were caught at less than 110 kilometres."

Finding herself facing the choice, my friend paid JD 10, collected her licenses and of course the pink ticket and receipt. As we were walking away, we heard: "Enough picking of lemons and oranges today friends. Let's call it a day."

King, Arafat hold talks

(Continued from page 1)

remarks. "We have always confronted and countered these dangers. We shall remain — despite all obstacles — steadfast," he said.

"Our joint steadfastness has enabled us always to overcome the dangers," he told the PLO delegation. "Our search for peace is irreversible, without compromising the land or our rights," he pledged.

His Majesty stressed confidence in the inevitability of the Arab Nation's victory and attainment of its goals.

Arafat replied by expressing gratitude for the warm reception accorded to him and stressed commitment to the joint Jordanian-Palestinian march.

"We have always been Jordanians and Palestinians one family in Jordan and in Palestine and we shall always remain so," Arafat said.

"It is our great destiny to remain in the first trench and our faith and convictions dictates on us to remain faithful to the sacred bond which has united and will always unite us," Arafat said.

Arafat stressed that Jordan and the PLO need each other more than ever before. "If the 1948 disaster affected Palestine, the Soviet Jewish immigration poses a similar disaster to the whole Arab World," Arafat warned.

"In the past the target (for the Israelis) was Palestine but now the target is the Arab World," he said.

In his arrival comments, Arafat said early Tuesday that some American officials were backing Israeli hardliners and shared blame for Israel's political deadlock.

"What happened in Israel was made up by some circles in the American administration who want (hardliner) Yitzhak Shamir and not Shimon Peres (in power)," Arafat told reporters.

"These circles only want to give more unlimited support for the Israeli occupation."

Arafat did not identify the officials but made clear he was not blaming President George Bush or Secretary of State James Baker. He said they had shown good intentions in trying to move forward the stalled peace process in the Middle East.

One year after

(Continued from page 1)

opposition since the founding of the Kingdom, swiftly moved to upstage the House and clear the way towards democracy by introducing the political reforms, which are seen today as following a determined course towards political pluralism.

While essentially implementing the course of economic action initiated under Sharif Zeid, including the rescheduling of a major part of the Kingdom's debt repayments due in 1990 and 1991, the Badran government has had little success in curbing inflation, alleviating the unemployment problem and checking the decline of the dinar's purchasing power; a combination of factors seen as guarantors of harder times ahead not just for the people of Ma'an but the whole country.

The progress that the gov-

ernment has achieved in cutting the budget deficit and improving the balance of payments by reducing imports and increasing exports has yet to reach the average man and woman. The government has focused more attention on the south which inspired the dramatic changes in the country but the message in the south was somewhere in between — bread not democracy and bread with democracy.

When Badran went on a tour of the southern regions to supervise relief efforts for the drought-stricken regions, he held informal meetings with the residents and listened to their complaints and demands. During one of these meetings, an old man, oblivious to the formalities of the occasion, stood up and told the distressed prime minister: "We need a sewerage system more than democracy."



Refugee Mustafa Shihab and his family cross into the East Bank fleeing the fighting in 1967. His was one

of the thousands of families which fled the war, hoping they could return home in a matter of weeks



or months. (Right) a scene from one of the refugee camps where Palestinians initially sought tempo-

rary refugee but which have become almost permanent homes (File photos)

Palestinian refugees survive on dreams of home

By Rana Sabbagh Reuters

SUKHNEH, Jordan — For Diab Hassan, the dream that he will one day return to Palestine makes the reality of his life in a squalid refugee camp in Jordan just about bearable.

"We try to put up with tough living conditions here because we all live on the hope of returning to our land," says Hassan, a middle-aged stonemason who fled his West Bank home in 1967 when Israeli troops arrived.

He is one of hundreds of thousands of Palestinians who took refuge in Jordan, Syria, Lebanon or Egypt when Israel was created in 1948 or during the 1967 Middle East war.

Hassan, who lives in the shantytown of Sukhneh 50 kilometres from Amman, faces a common dilemma — whether to cling to his refugee status in the hope of going home, or to leave the camp and integrate into Jordan.

Most refugees from the West Bank are Jordanian citizens, as the territory belonged to Jordan before Israel occupied it in 1967. But if they live outside the camps, they lost united Nations aid. And the existence of the camps, the refugees feel, is a powerful symbol of their displacement that makes an eventual return to Palestine more likely.

For the time being Hassan has chosen to stay in Sukhneh, a jumble of muddy alleys and

breeze-block houses thrown up over the last two decades and housing 6,000 people.

They live cheek-by-jowl, seven or eight to a room. Sheep and goats snuffle in the dirt in small courtyards outside.

Houses have running water and electricity, but there is no piped sewage system and fouled water runs down open drains along the middle of the alleys. Crumbling tarred roads lead to the camp.

Najah Mideh says she and her husband were childless when they fled their home in 1967.

"Now we share a roof with our 10 children, including a married son and his two boys," she sighs. "None of us has any privacy. When one is ill, the disease spreads like lightning."

Israel has long accused Jordan and other Arab countries of keeping Palestinians in refugee settlements as a political weapon in the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Jordanian officials acknowledge that the camps have a symbolic role.

"The camps...are viewed as an aspect of a political problem that has not yet been solved," Ahmad Qatanani, head of the Foreign Ministry's Department for Palestinian Affairs, told Reuters.

"Meanwhile we try our best, with the help of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), to make living conditions as close as possible to those of the nearby communities," he said.

He added that he had rejected many requests from refugees wanting to add new rooms to their houses on the grounds that such improvements would make the camps permanent.

"Refugees can do anything they want outside the camps but if they want to remain inside, they have to abide by the temporary laws that govern them," he said.

UNRWA says that less than a quarter of the 916,000 refugees registered with it in Jordan still live in camps.

The agency recognises 10 refugee camps and also provides limited services to three other Palestinian settlements. Amman regards all 15 townships as re-

fugee camps.

Refugees hope the 28-month-old uprising in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, plus the declaration of a Palestinian state by the Palestine Liberation Organisation in 1988, have improved their chances of eventually going home.

But some are disheartened by an influx of Soviet Jews to Israel, fearing that many will settle in the occupied areas. Israel has said 750,000 Soviet Jews could arrive in the next five years.

"My children don't know what their home town looks like," said refugee Jahl Salameh, a farmer. "But since the start of the uprising, they all want to go there and fight the enemy."

Hideout turns historic landmark

By Pierre Albert Lambert

On a steep hillside, a small house with grey shutters, standing in a shady garden, takes us back a century and a half in the past, to the time when Paris was still a collection of villages. The village of Passy was renowned for its springs. It was here that the French 19th century writer, Honore de Balzac, hid from his creditors for seven years.

As he was pursued, he passed himself off as Mr. de Breugnot (the name of his housekeeper) when, in 1842, he rented the first floor of the house, described above from a rich butcher in Passy. Today, this house has become a museum and world centre for research on Balzac.

The house appealed to him as it had two exits, one on Rue Bassie (Rue Raynouard today), and the other below, reached by a hidden staircase. Using the latter, one could furtively flee towards Paris along the banks of the Seine.

An extra precaution against the bailiffs who pestered Balzac and made life impossible for him was that a password had to be given by anyone wanting to enter the house. Protected in this way, the novelist wearing his loose monkish robe, could thus get down to work.

He worked feverishly during

those fruitful years and the results are evoked in those small, darkly papered rooms. One can find the characters of the "Comedie Humaine" most of whom, like Balzac, sought fame and fortune.

Paintings, engravings, statues, manuscripts and personal objects partly recreate the atmosphere which surrounded the "hermit of Passy", but only partly, as, at the time, Balzac went through a phase of bric-a-brac mania, buying up just about anything.

He described his work-schedule to Madame Hanska, the great love of his life: "Work, my darling, means getting up every night at midnight, writing till eight, having lunch in a quarter of an hour, working till five, going to bed and starting again the next day."

In the middle of his study stands the small table at which the writer used to work and about which he wrote to his Polish mistress: "It has lived through all my misery, wiped away all my tears and heard all my thoughts. My arm has almost worn it away from moving across it as I write". At this table, he wrote "Splendeurs et Miseres des Courtisanes", "Le Cousin Pons", "La Cousine Bette" and a few others.

Behind him, within reach in the library, stands the famous coffee-pot which helped him find inspiration. Every night, he drank twenty to thirty cups

from it. And there is his walking-stick "with swirls of turquoise and a sculpted gold knob" that he was so proud of.

Although, at the time, the writer's residence had been surrounded by orchards, it had not been the haven of peace he had dreamed of. He complained about his noisy neighbours and reproached his landlord for having accepted five "proletarian households with proletarian children who make such a row that I am unable to work".

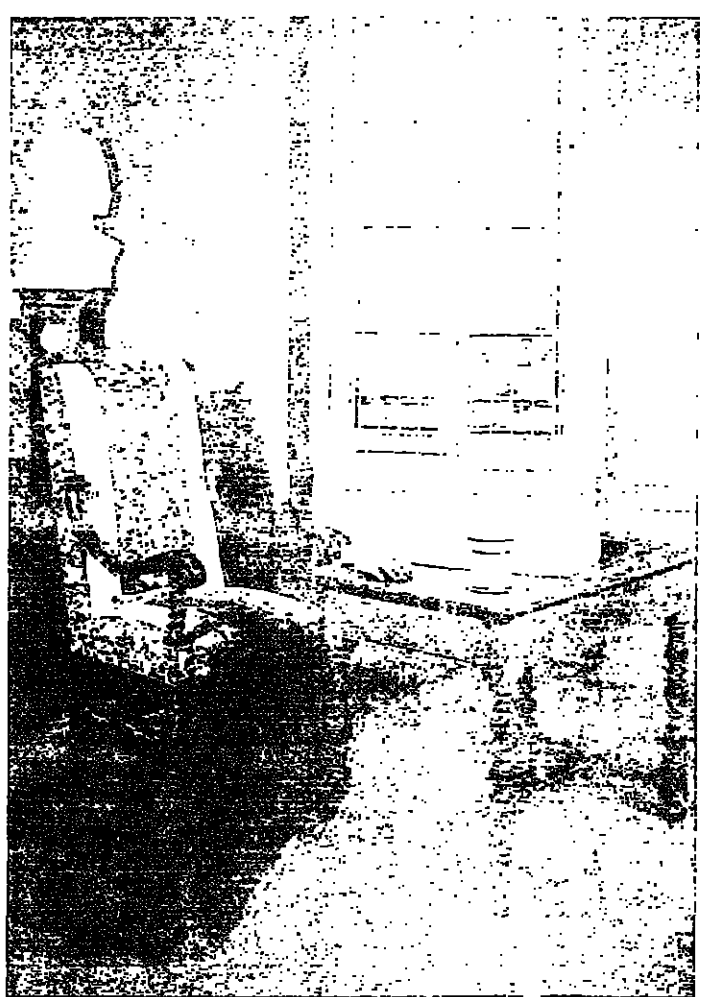
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He was also inconvenienced by the heat: "It is fifteen degrees too hot in my study as the washerwoman below has a fire going like in a steam engine". In this house, Balzac received the writers who, he thought, would help him to be admitted to the Academie Francaise ("I am going to try and cannon-blast my way into it"). But he was never to be accepted.

Every year, the Balzac museum becomes richer with new acquisitions and donations, for instance the gold watch with the (suspected) crest of the De Balzac family which a Swiss watchmaker had made for him and to which he was very attached. In order to thank one of his friends, Sylvain Gavault, who had helped him to get out of his financial difficulties, Balzac had bequeathed it to him in his will. Years went by when, a few months ago, out of the blue, an old lady turned up at Balzac's house in Rue Raynouard: "It's for the museum," she said, holding out the watch of her great-great-uncle, Sylvain Gavault.

During the past year, some thirty thousand people have visited Balzac's house. For a number of years, Balzac has been the most widely read French author abroad, particularly in the USSR and Japan.

"Balzac's Paris cabin is also the headquarters of a highly active research centre", points out Madame Judith Petit, the curator. "We receive researchers and students from Europe, Japan, the United States and even China. Our correspondents send us the latest studies devoted to him, from all over the world". Balzac is more alive than ever. — (L'Actualite en France).



Balzac's 'office'

Court orders eviction

(Continued from page 1)

Church of the Holy Sepulcher waging Palestinian flags.

Israel's religion minister visited the Old City Tuesday attempting to allay Christian and Muslim outrage over the Easter week settlement.

Religious Affairs Minister Ze'ev Hammer said he was trying to ease tension surrounding the controversial settlement but the Greek Orthodox Church declared the dispute would end only when the settlers departed.

"I came here to try to calm the situation. This should be a civil problem, not one of religion," said Hamner.

"Every citizen of Jerusalem has the right to live wherever he buys property according to the law," the minister said, carefully avoiding an outright endorsement of the settlement.

Patriarch Diodoros I said after talks with Hamner: "This problem will not be solved until the settlers go."

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Marseille looks for Europe Cup

LONDON (R) — Chris Waddle and Jean-Pierre Papin, Marseille's seemingly irresistible Anglo-French strike force, aim to outwit Benfica Wednesday and propel a French club into the European Cup final for the first time in 14 years.

But Marseille must also make sure their defence holds as they take a 2-1 first leg lead to Lisbon for the semifinal return and seek the right to meet either Italian holders A.C. Milan or West German former champions Bayern Munich in the final in Vienna on May 23.

Bayern, who need to overturn a 1-0 first leg deficit in Munich, were the club who thwarted the last French European Cup finalists, St. Etienne, back in 1976.

Bayern, who had knocked St. Etienne out in the semifinals the previous season, collected the trophy for the third successive year with that victory but have not won it since.

Twice beaten finalists in the past decade, Bayern held out in Milan two weeks ago until Dutch striker Marco Van Basten settled a late penalty, leaving the return leg delicately poised.

Marseille, like Milan, take a slender one-goal advantage into the perilous away leg.

Papin, who has scored in six of his seven European Cup outings this season, gave them that edge after team mate Franck Sauzeau had responded swiftly to an early Benfica strike by Adesualdo Lima.

"There must always be a fast player to mark Papin and make

sure he doesn't escape," Benfica's Swedish coach Sven Eriksson said before the return.

Marseille are the only team in the semifinal quartet never to have won the trophy and have spent a fortune in their bid to become the first French club to capture it.

Reims, beaten by Real Madrid in the inaugural final in 1956 and victims of the Spanish maestros again in 1959, and St. Etienne are the only French clubs to have reached the final.

But England winger Waddle, buoyant after scoring twice in Saturday's 2-0 win over arch-rivals Bordeaux which lifted Marseille to the top of the domestic league table, says his club are the pick of the last four.

"Of the four European Cup semifinalists, Marseille are the best. And if I fear anyone it's Bayern rather than Milan. Bayern are more solid in every situation," he told the sports daily L'Equipe.

Marseille, however, must first dispose of Benfica, European Cup champions back in 1961 and 1962. The French club's destiny may depend on former international goalkeeper Jean Castaneda, who has looked decidedly jittery since he was drafted into the side after first-choice keeper Gaetan Huard broke a leg in the quarter-finals.

Benfica warmed up for the fray with a 3-1 win over Braga in the Estadio Da Luz where they expect 120,000 fans to roar them on against Marseille.

Swedish striker Mats Magnus-

son scored once to hoist his tally for the season to 29 — one more than Marseille's Papin, leading marksman in the French first division as Magnusson is in Portugal.

Bayern and Milan were also in winning form in their last league outings, Bayern stretching their Bundesliga lead to four points with a 3-0 win over Kaiserslautern last Thursday and Milan defeating Sampdoria 1-0 the following day.

Milan, level on points with Napoli at the top of the Italian League, will once again be without suspended winger Roberto Donadoni and injured international midfielder colleague Carlo Ancelotti as well as long-sidelined Dutchman Ruud Gullit.

Sampdoria aim for their second successive European Cup-Winners' Cup final when they entertain Monaco after a 2-2 first leg draw in the Mediterranean principality in which their striker Gianluca Vialli scored twice in three minutes later in the second half.

Belgium's Anderlecht, who ousted holders Barcelona, defend a 1-0 first leg lead against Dinamo Bucharest in their semifinal return in Romania.

In the UEFA Cup, Fiorentina and Werder Bremen faced action in Perugia Tuesday after a 1-1 draw in West Germany, where Werder had earlier demolished holders Napoli.

Roberto Baggio signalled a timely return to form for Fiorentina with two goals in their 3-1 win over Verona at the weekend.

Tottenham moves up Olympic champions Bordin

LONDON (Agencies) — Garry Lineker converted a Millwall mistake into a goal five minutes into the second half as Tottenham scored a 1-0 victory Monday to move into fourth place in the English soccer League.

With first-place Liverpool and second-place Aston Villa idle, the Spurs' road victory was the highlight of the Easter Monday card and moved them above North London archrival Arsenal, which also had the day off.

Everton tightened its hold on third place with a 2-1 home victory over Derby. Other first-division matches had Chelsea beating Crystal Palace 3-0, Coventry and Queens Park Rangers (QPR) drawing 1-1, Manchester City scoring a 1-0 road victory over Norwich and Nottingham Forest beating Luton 3-0.

At the top of the second division, Leeds extended its advantage with a 4-0 victory over Sheffield United, while Newcastle replaced United in the no. 2 spot with a 3-0 victory over Stoke. The first two teams in the second division automatically win promotion to division 1 for next season.

The Scottish League was idle. Tottenham's victory was its second in three days and finished a bad weekend for Millwall.

A loss Saturday guaranteed that the Lions would be demoted to division 2 next season. And on the holiday Monday, before a home crowd, they gave away the winning goal to Tottenham.

Garry Waddock's misdirected back-pass in the 49th minute enabled Lineker to sprint clear, round Keith Brannagan and score his 25th goal of the season and third goal of the weekend.

At Goodison Park, goals by Ray Atteveld and Kevin Sheedy kept Everton's chances of catching the front-runners alive. Mark Wright

scored for Derby. Leeds entered the day leading Sheffield United atop the second division by a better goal difference. They ended it with 32,000 home fans cheering two goals by Gordon Strachan and one apiece by Lee Chapman and Gary Speed.

Newcastle, meanwhile, took over second place on two goals by Bjorn Kristensen and one by Mick Quinn.

Chelsea, the division 2 champs just a year ago, continued to shine near the top of division 1. Goals by Kerry Dixon, Kevin Wilson and Graham Stuart sent Chelsea into a fifth-place tie with Arsenal, with three games left to play. Palace lost defender Gary O'Reilly on a foul in the 28th minute.

Danny Maddix gave QPR a road draw with some hustle just before halftime. He dived to head in a cross from David Bardsley's free kick in the second minute of injury time of the first half. Coventry took a 1-0 lead in the ninth minute on David Smith's goal.

Everton benefitted from a mistake by substitute goalie Martin Taylor. Ray Atteveld's lob in the 51st minute caught Taylor out of position and gave Everton a 1-0 lead. Mark Wright's rebound of a Robert Briscoe shot tied it 1-1 10 minutes later before Kevin Sheedy won it for Everton in the 69th minute. The victory left Everton in third place eight points out of first with three games to play.

Tottenham's last-season run toward the top continued at Millwall. Garry Lineker picked up a misdirected back pass and scored his 25th goal of the season just after halftime to give the Spurs their fifth consecutive victory. The victory moved Tottenham into fourth place, in front of Arsenal.

Mota win Boston Marathon

BOSTON (R) — Seoul Olympic Marathon champions Gelindo Bordin of Italy and Rosa Mota of Portugal each scored decisive victories in the 94th Boston Marathon Monday.

Bordin set an Italian national record with his time of two hours eight minutes 19 seconds that left pre-race favourite Juma Ikangaa of Tanzania second for the third consecutive year.

Mota's victory was never in doubt as she became the first three-time winner of the women's division in the world's oldest continuing marathon in 2:25:24.

"I came here to try to run, not to break my (best) time (2:25:29). So I am very happy," said Mota, 31, who along with Bordin earned \$30,000.

The 31-year-old Bordin, the first Italian to win in Boston, moved in front on the course's infamous "Heartbreak Hill" after 20 miles (32 kilometres) and nev-

er relinquished the lead as he crossed the finish 1:49 ahead of the tiring Ikangaa.

For the first 16 miles (25.7 kilometres) Ikangaa, who lost by one second in 1983 and by 48 seconds last year, set a blistering course-record pace heading a pack that included 1988 winner Ibrahim Hussein of Kenya and his compatriot Kipkemboi Kimeili.

Buordin had wisely opted to stay back of the pace setters at that stage of the race.

"My goal was to stay near the front pack," Bordin said. "I didn't want to come back here four or five times to win," he said alluding to Ikangaa's repeated frustration.

Bordin began to make his move at the 17th mile (27.3 kilometres) as the course winds through Boston's suburbs toward the city centre while Ikangaa held a slim lead over Kimeili.

At the approach to Heartbreak Hill, which has scuttled the hopes of many a marathoner, Bordin moved to within 30 yards (27 metres) of the Tanzanian.

The steep, 2,160-foot (660-metre) incline proved too much for Ikangaa as Bordin claimed the lead 1:41 into the race while still climbing the hill.

Ikangaa, who finished in 2:09:22, said he had set out to break the 2:06:50 world record of Ethiopian Belaine Densimo, but cramped up on Heartbreak Hill. "I was confident that I would run a 2:05 race until I got the cramp," said Ikangaa, who vowed to return to Boston until he wins here.

Bordin said he never expected the Tanzanian could keep up the pace he had established.

"It's impossible for the Africans to finish the race at such a fast speed," Bordin said.

Brazil names World Cup squad

RIO DE JANEIRO (R) — Brazil soccer chief Sebastiao Lazaroni Monday named his 22-man squad for the World Cup finals in Italy, six weeks before the official deadline, and said every match would be a war.

There were no surprises in the group, which consists of the players with whom Lazaroni has been working for the last 12 months. It contains seven survivors from the 1986 World Cup finals in Mexico — Muller, Mozer, Branco, Careca, Silas, Alemao and Mauro Galvao.

Lazaroni said the only change would be made if PSV Eindhoven striker Romario, who broke his leg in March, did not look like recovering in time for the competition. "Everything we have done so far has been good but in a World Cup we have to achieve a lot more. Every game is a decision, a war," Lazaroni told a crowded and chaotic press conference at the Brazilian Football Confederation (CBF) headquarters.

Twelve of the squad are based with European clubs while five of the 10 others play for Rio Club Vasco, the current Brazilian champions. Lazaroni said all 22 players were good enough to hold down a first team place. The Brazilian press had predicted the presence of 19 of the players for more than one month, with midfielders Tita and Bismarck and striker Renato the only uncertainties.

Lazaroni said he had announced his squad early to avoid a repeat of the 1986 World Cup preparation when Brazil took 24 players to Mexico and the fear of being one of the two left out created a tense atmosphere in the squad.

He also wants as long as possible with his squad before the start of the competition. Preparation begins April 23 with medical tests on the players in Rio, while training camp at the team's headquarters in Teresopolis, a mountain resort 90 kilometres from Rio, starts April 25.

But he is unlikely to have his

entire squad together for the whole period. Several of the European-based players have club commitments after April 25 but only Silas, Jorginho, Aldair and Romario have contracts requiring their clubs to release them.

Careca and Alemao of Napoli are involved in the Italian league title chase, which could continue into early May, while Mozer of Marseille or Ricardo Gomes and Valdo of Benfica could be involved in the European Cup final.

Lazaroni said the presence of these players would depend on results and that he would study absenteeism case by case. But he said he would consider dropping players if he thought they were missing too much training.

"If a player is available only from June 3, he will be out of the World Cup. I have to get people to understand how serious it is to participate in a World Cup, and training is absolutely essential," he said.

Graf reaffirms supremacy

AMELIA ISLAND, Florida (AP) — Just when the third longest winning streak in women's tennis history looked vulnerable, Steffi Graf reaffirmed her status as the world's no. 1 player.

Graf, shrugging off a pair of unimpressive performances, trounced Arantxa Sanchez Vicario 6-1, 6-0 Sunday to win the Bausch and Lomb championships.

The victory extended Graf's winning streak to 57 matches since Sanchez Vicario beat her in last year's French Open final. Martina Navratilova had streaks of 74 matches in 1984 and 58 in 1986-87.

Right now, though, the West German is more concerned with the consistency of her game fol-

lowing her return from a two-month layoff due to a broken right thumb. She passed her first test, but not without a few anxious moments.

Graf uncharacteristically made 42 unforced errors while beating Carling Bassett-Seguso in the quarterfinals and had 49 more before defeating Natalia Zvereva in the semis.

Meanwhile, Sanchez Vicario rolled along against Helen Klesli and Gabriela Sabatini and entered Sunday's final confident she could beat Graf again.

"I didn't have the easiest time (in the quarterfinals and semifinals), but I knew what I was doing wrong," said Graf, who defeated Sanchez Vicario in 47 minutes.

"I talked to my father and coach about what to do. It was

just a matter of keeping loose, and they tried to set me more relaxed."

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McNulty wins Cannes Open

CANNES, France (R) — Zimbabwe's Mark McNulty won the Cannes Open golf title by one stroke from Briton Ronan Rafferty Monday and moved to the top of the European order of merit money list.

McNulty, winner of the Cannes tournament in 1988 and Monte Carlo Open champion in 1989, shot 71 for an eight-under-par 280 to edge out Rafferty, who lost it with a bogey five at the final hole in a final round 69.

Briton Mark Roe took third place, a further shot adrift on 282 after a closing round of 73, while British overnight leader Ian Woosnam dropped way back with a final round 77 after his shot at the fourth hole hit a woman spectator.

McNulty, 36, won £50,000 (\$82,000) to push his season's earnings to £86,740 (\$143,120) and go more than £13,000 (\$21,500) ahead of Woosnam at the top of the order of merit.

Mediterranean Open winner Woosnam led by a stroke after a third round 67 but slipped to joint-eighth place on 285, five behind McNulty, after he was unsettled by the accident at the fourth.

The woman was taken to hospital after Woosnam's overhit second shot struck her on the head. The ball bounced out of bounds, costing the Welshman a double-bogey six.

"I was unhappy at what happened but I still think I should have won. I just played badly," Woosnam said.

McNulty said: "I'm surprised to have won with a 71 but this is a tricky course requiring great pati-

ence and that suits my game ideally. It's the reason why I've won before in Cannes and on a similar course in Monte Carlo."

"It was all a bit boring. I didn't hole as many putts as I usually do when I win. Pure golf consistency through the week paid off and I only had one three-putt," he added.

Rafferty, who started Friday with a tripple-bogey seven, took the lead when he picked up six

birdies in the first 11 holes to go nine under par.

He offset bogeys at 12 and 13 with a 25-foot birdie at the 14th but overshoot the green at the last and took three to get down for a bogey five and the £ 33,300 (\$55,000) second prize.

Roe wrecked his chances of victory by missing a succession of short putts and then burying his drive in a bunker for a bogey at the 17th.

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Ortega increases pressure on Chamorro for contra disarming

MANAGUA (R) — Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega has increased Sandinista pressure on President-Elect Violeta Chamorro to force the unconditional and immediate disarming of the contra rebels, hinting Monday that he was considering postponing the April 25 handover.

Ortega's leftist Sandinista government has strongly rejected recent statements by hard-line contra leaders and members of Chamorro's election alliance that the rebels would remain armed in Nicaragua until cuts are made in the Sandinista army.

At a Monday news conference, Ortega said the Sandinistas were "analysing this situation" when asked if there would be a handover on April 25 if the contras were not disarmed.

"We are very close to peace and very close to war," Ortega said.

A contra delegation was expected to arrive in Managua

Tuesday to discuss terms for a ceasefire with Sandinista, Chamorro and United Nations officials. The delegation was forced to postpone the trip from Monday after a fire and explosion at a nearby air force base closed the capital's international airport for about five hours.

Diplomats in Managua say that the Sandinistas are emphatic that the current command structure in the Sandinista army remain untouched, although they have agreed the army will be depoliticized and reduced.

In calling for the immediate disarming of the contras and shrouding the April 25 inaugura-

tion in uncertainty the Sandinistas could be hoping to force Chamorro to make a deal on the army, a senior Latin American diplomat said.

"I think there is some bluff in all this but it's impossible to say how far they are willing to go," the diplomat said.

"It's like who's going to blink first," he added. In earlier statements in Managua and during meetings last month with U.S. Vice President Dan Quayle, Ortega has said he would hand over the government to Chamorro even if the contras were not disarmed.

The diplomat said the Sandinistas would pay a huge price if they decided not to hand over the government, losing most if not all international backing and creating huge rifts inside Nicaragua. "No one would stay here," he said, referring to the diplomatic

missions in Managua.

Most of the estimated 10,000 contras are now in Nicaraguan territory. Under an accord reached in March between rebel leaders and Chamorro envoys they must move to internationally supervised enclaves for disarming after a verified ceasefire.

The demobilisation accord did not set a deadline for the disarming of the rebels inside Nicaragua but Ortega Monday cited an accord signed by five Central American leaders at a summit earlier this month which said rebels inside and outside Nicaragua must be disarmed by April 25.

About 260 Miskito Indians were the first anti-Sandinista rebels to hand over their arms to U.N. troops, doing so in south-east Honduras Monday. Rebels in the main contra base of Yamas are due to lay down their arms Wednesday.

New Nepali premier predicts elections in a year

KATHMANDU (R) — Krishna Prasad Bhattarai, a former dissident named to head Nepal's interim government, said Tuesday elections in the Himalayan kingdom would be held within a year.

Bhattarai also told reporters he wanted to speed up the convening of a commission to overhaul the constitution after King Birendra abolished a partyless system of councils known as Panchayats.

On Monday the king acceded to opposition demands to sack Prime Minister Lokendra Bahadur Chand and pave the way for multi-party democracy in the Himalayan kingdom of 17 million people.

The king's announcement followed lengthy talks between the government and the opposition Sunday after an eight-week campaign for democracy which reached a bloody climax on April 6 when troops fired on protesters. Hospital doctors said at least 50 people were killed.

The campaign, led by Bhattarai's Nepal Congress Party and a united left front of seven Communist factions, proved it had widespread urban support and forced the king to back down from his previously obdurate opposition to multi-party democracy.

Congress officials said Bhattarai, who suggested that the voting age be lowered from 21 to 18 years, was rushing to put together by Tuesday evening the interim government to oversee elections.

They would be the first multi-party elections since parliamentary democracy was suspended in 1960 when King Mahendra, Birendra's father, dismissed the government headed by then Prime Minister B.P. Koirala and banned political parties.

The 30-year ban was lifted on April 8, two days after the shootings. Bhattarai, 66, is a founder member of the Nepal Congress Party and has spent time in jail for agitating against the ban on political parties.

He was proposed as head of the interim administration by his party's widely-respected supreme leader, Ganesh Man Singh, 75, who turned down the job because of failing health.

The Communist factions allied with Congress in the democracy campaign said they would support the choice. So did Birendra's supporters.

"If they have jointly decided on Krishna Bhattarai, then there is no problem (with the king)," said acting Foreign Minister Pashupati Rana, Birendra's main negotiator.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Food poisoning kills 87 in India

NEW DELHI (R) — At least 87 people died after eating chapatis — unleavened bread — contaminated with pesticide at an Indian village feast and the toll was likely to rise, the Press Trust of India has reported. The news agency, monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), said more than 150 guests at an engagement ceremony were being treated in hospital for suspected food poisoning. Doctors said many victims in the village near Basti, 215 kilometres from the Uttar Pradesh state capital Lucknow, were children, traditionally fed first at the feasts accompanying Hindu engagement ceremonies.

Bush names new envoy to Budapest

WASHINGTON (AP) — President George Bush announced his selection of Charles H. Thomas, a career foreign service officer, to be U.S. ambassador to Hungary. Thomas, 55, most recently served as principal deputy assistant secretary of state for European and Canadian affairs. For almost a year he has been studying Hungarian in preparation for his new assignment. If confirmed by the Senate, he would replace Mark Palmer, who recently retired from the foreign service for a job in international banking. U.S. relations with Hungary have improved steadily since that nation held democratic elections last year. Earlier this month, the United States entered into a pact with Hungary that extends to most-favoured-nation trade status to it.

Taiwan, Lesotho establish ties

TAIPEI (Agencies) — Taiwan and Lesotho have established full diplomatic relations for the purpose of strengthening ties of friendship and cooperation between the two countries in conformity with the principles of international law. The two countries have further agreed to set up embassies in Taipei and Maseru at a convenient and appropriate time.

Pentagon report chides some allies, praises others

WASHINGTON (AP) — Defense Secretary Dick Cheney, in an annual report on the defence spending of NATO nations and Japan, has faulted Luxembourg, Denmark and Canada for "below par" military spending. "The performance of this group of nations... looks substantially below par," said the report, which was released at the Defense Department.

However, the report noted Canada had a "relatively good performance" in increasing defence spending in recent years. Luxembourg is an important host to allied forces, and Denmark has a "better than average" showing in other areas, such as in its active and reserve troop numbers in relation to the nation's population.

The annual report on allied contributions to the common defence is required by Congress.

Overall, the report said, NATO nations and Japan spent about \$489 billion on defence in 1988, the last year for which common figures were available. The United States accounted for \$293 billion, or 60 per cent of that amount, the report said.

The other major spenders included France, \$36.1 billion, 7.4 per cent; West Germany, \$35.1 billion, 7.2 per cent; Britain, \$34.7 billion, 7.1 per cent; Japan, \$28.9 billion, 5.9 per cent; Canada, \$10 billion, 2 per cent; Italy, \$20.4 billion, 4.2 per cent and others, \$30.7 billion, 6.3 per cent, the report said.

The nations that have made "mixed efforts" included Norway, West Germany, the Netherlands, Portugal, Italy, Belgium and Spain, the report said. The report said if Japan's defence spending were measured only against its high standard of living and economic output, it would also be judged "substantially below par." But the report noted Japan's contribution of 1 per cent of its so-called gross domestic output to defence puts it among the top five nations in total defence spending.

The commission listed excessive overtime and worker fatigue among the problems at the Kennedy space centre which it ordered NASA to solve.

"You can't fault them for trying, but they don't seem to have a handle on it yet," Hotz said.

But NASA said there was nothing to worry about.

"It's just an ambitious, success-oriented time line," said NASA spokeswoman Lisa Malone.

"I'm not sure about the May 9 date, but we don't have any hesitation about going to the pad and working in parallel," John Talone, a shuttle processing chief, told a recent news conference.

"Everyone was wondering how they were going to handle it when they had to operate two hot pads simultaneously," said Robert Hotz, a member of the presidential commission that investigated the explosion of the shuttle Challenger in 1986.

Soviet Moldavian parliament opens amid tension

KISHINEV, Soviet Union (R) — Soviet Moldavia's newly elected parliament met Tuesday amid latent tension between the republic's Romanian-speaking nationalists and pro-Moscow minorities.

Both the nationalist Popular Front and the federalist Inter-vizheniye Movement said the balance of forces in the 383-seat chamber would only become clear later.

Romanian-speaking Moldavians make up about 65 per cent of the population of 4.5 million. But not even Popular Front leaders proposed following the example of Lithuania's unilateral declaration of independence.

Ethnic tension flared last November in the southwestern republic, made up largely of former Romanian territory, when radicals stormed the Interior Ministry building in the capital.

The republic is one of several on the Soviet rim where demands for more autonomy from Moscow have brought friction, in this case between ethnic Moldavians, closely related to the Romanians in the west, and Russians who moved into the public over the last four decades.

The opening session began with appeals for calm discussion and consensus, but quickly became bogged down in wrangling over whether to trust a new electronic voting system.

Concern voiced over double-shuttle schedule

CAPE CANAVERAL (R) — For the first time since the 1986 Challenger disaster, scientists are preparing two space shuttles for launch, prompting concern that thousands of workers are being pushed to keep an unrealistic flight schedule.

The U.S. shuttle Columbia, on a tighter schedule than any spacecraft since December 1985, is due to roll out to its launch pad on April 22 for a May 9 launch carrying an astronomy observatory.

April 25 is the date for the shuttle Discovery's second liftoff attempt with the \$2.5 billion Hubble space telescope, after a scuttled launch on April 10, and will mark the first time in more than four years that NASA workers

have had to divide their time between shuttles on both launch pads.

The double duty became necessary when the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) delayed the launch of Discovery so technicians could replace a faulty power steering unit in the shuttle and recharge batteries aboard the telescope.

The 40-kilogramme unit was replaced Sunday and was expected to be tested Tuesday. The two 200-kilogramme battery packs were removed from the telescope for recharging Saturday.

A cracked, leaking hydraulic line in Columbia's nose landing gear added to the unexpected

weekend work. Technicians had to replace the line before they could tow Columbia into its assembly building Monday to be hooked to a fuel tank and two booster rockets for launch.

If all goes as planned, Columbia will spend only six days instead of the usual seven to 10 inside its assembly building and only 20 days instead of the usual 21 to 28 on the launch pad before liftoff.

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U.S.-Soviet mission to Mars 'too risky now'

WASHINGTON (AP) — Joint missions to Mars by the United States and the Soviet Union are too risky now, but independent coordinated exploration should continue, a panel said Monday.

"The United States and USSR have no prior experience with the degree of cooperation necessary to carry out a technical project of this complexity or magnitude," said a committee of the National Research Council (NRC).

The committee said it was concerned "about relying on the consistency of the relationship over a period of a decade or more into the future."

With its report, the panel chilled the idea frequently expressed by many experts that Mars would be explored jointly by the Soviets and Americans, thus doing together what would be too expensive for either nation to do alone.

The U.S. and the Soviets have cooperated in space in the past, most notably in 1975 when three astronauts aboard an Apollo spacecraft joined their ship with a Soviet Soyuz and exchanged bearings in orbit with its two cosmo-

nauts.

The NRC committee was asked by NASA to look into undertaking missions with international partners to gather rocks and soil from Mars, using robots, and returning them to earth for analysis. The committee concentrated its study on efforts by the U.S. and USSR because they are the only nations in a position to take on the lead role in a Mars programme.

The Soviets have said they intend to explore Mars with robotic rovers, space probes orbiting overhead and by returned samples. A scenario often mentioned is that one nation would build a lander and a sample-return vehicle while the other would develop a roving vehicle for collecting samples and analysing them.

Detailed Mars investigations would include robotic missions at four to six selected sites over a number of years. The committee said its recommended approach "would allow a graceful path to increasingly close levels of cooperation."

The committee said it considered three levels of U.S. par-

ticipation with the Soviets in a Mars venture, reaching these conclusions:

In the case of each country conducting programmes independently, the panel concluded that the cost would be too high, the returns would be less than maximum, U.S. technology would benefit greatly and there would be no additional risk of transferring technology to the Soviets.

In addition, the committee said it would make no contribution to U.S.-Soviet experience in technical and social endeavours and "it could also ignite a space competition similar to the race to the moon."

If both nations were to undertake separate responsibilities on a joint project, it "would have a greater, presumably positive impact on U.S.-Soviet relations than would options involving lesser degrees of interactions and reliance," the committee said.

Such a venture would allow the nations to share costs while increasing returns and take advantage of the best of both nations' space programmes, such as the

Soviets' lead in heavy-lift launch capability.

But a mission with high dependence on cooperative efforts "would sit as a potential hostage to political events that might disrupt communications and interaction between the two nations," said the committee.

The third possibility considered — a highly coordinated exploration programme — would have both sides working together on all stages of a project with "their own self-contained and independently designed missions."

In that scenario, there would be cooperation in analysing returns and the cost would be cut in half because each side would need to commit to only half of the needed missions, according to the committee. In addition, "there would be no risk of mission failure due to technical, management or political failures."

Although there is a danger that the cooperation could "deteriorate into a race for Mars," the committee said, if the schedule is planned and paced properly, the competition might even be helpful.

5 states reportedly expand nuclear weapons capability

WASHINGTON (AP) — Pakistan, India, Argentina, Brazil and Iraq have been able to circumvent international regulations to build or expand nuclear weapons capabilities, a research organisation reported Tuesday.

To deter these practices, the report recommended that the United States and other supplier countries threaten to use economic and military sanctions as penalties.

The researchers also recommended that traditional nuclear suppliers ensure rigorous enforcement of their common nuclear export guidelines. The report said West Germany has been the weak link in the multi-lateral export control system and must enact legislation to tighten export control laws.

Titled "Nuclear Exports: The Challenge of Control," the report was prepared by the private Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

There was no immediate com-

munication from any of the embassies whose governments were mentioned in the report.

But Iraq has denied any intention to develop nuclear weapons. The denial came three weeks ago after British investigators arrested four people allegedly trying to smuggle to Iraq a device capable of triggering a nuclear explosion.

Afterwards, U.S. President George Bush called on supplier nations to exercise "special restraint" in the export of parts that could be used to develop nuclear weapons.

Of the five countries mentioned in the report, Iraq's programme was far behind those of the other nations.

The report, written by Leonard Spector with the assistance of Jacqueline Smith, said the emerging nuclear states have been able to exploit weaknesses in the nuclear export control systems of the advanced supplier states. Spector is director of the endowment's

non-proliferation project and Smith is the project assistant.

"In some instances, their agents have engaged in simple smuggling — for example, by attempting to export commodities without required export licences or by making blatantly false declarations on export documents," the report said.

In other cases, it said, these agents have been able to minimise any suspect characteristics of the commodities at issue, taking advantage of a relaxed attitude by licensing officials or exploiting gaps in export regulations.

If controls had been enforced effectively, Spector said, it is possible that "Pakistan would not be able to manufacture nuclear weapons today, that India's nuclear weapons potential would be a fraction of its current size and that neither Argentina nor Brazil would have facilities capable of producing nuclear weapons material."

Berlin market draws Poles by the thousands

WEST BERLIN (AP) — Even the Easter holidays didn't stop thousands of Poles from streaming into West Berlin — some to shop, others to sell.

The influx of Poles to West Berlin, one of the few Western European places they can visit without visas, has increased dramatically since the Polish zloty became a convertible currency in January. City officials say more than a million Poles have visited since January.

Many of them head for a muddy, littered field near Potsdamer Platz known as the "Polish market" — a ragtag bazaar where Poles sell whatever they can bring from home — caviar smuggled out of the Soviet Union, farm fresh eggs and bacon, untaxed cigarettes and Polish vodka.

It is both an introduction to free-market practices and a crucial source of income for Poles weathering their country's radical economic changes.

"Who knows how long I'll have a job. I'm sure the company will go bust by June," said Krzysztof Goral, a bus driver from Poznan, as he tried to sell a pair of mounted deer antlers for 15 marks (\$9.3).

"We've got to try to earn while we can," said his brother Marek, an electrician, who watched over a pile of chocolates and wooden-handled screwdrivers the brothers also had for sale.

The Goral brothers are regulars at the Polish market. Every Friday they take an evening train on the 331-kilometre trip to East Berlin. Upon arrival, they stay up all night in order to avoid a hotel bill, then cross into West Berlin to stake out a spot at the market early in the morning.

Many other Polish visitors sleep in their cars, tour buses or try to camp in the zoo train station.

Those habits, along with the wide-open trading at the market, appall many Berliners who would like the city government to do something to stop the flow.

Poles call it business; Germans call it smuggling.

Officials have recorded more than 26,000 customs violations since the year began. The amount of confiscated goods, mostly from Poles, is "no longer conceivable," said the Berlin Morgenpost newspaper. More than 1.5 million cigarettes have been confiscated at the market since January, the newspaper reported.

Despite the discomforts of travel and the threat of fines and confiscation, many Poles find the market essential. "Things are hard in Poland, I've got two kids and no job. I've got to make a living," said Stanislaw Neuman of Wroclaw. Neuman lost his job last month as a bus driver as a part of the radical economic reform plan that ended state subsidies and left over 200,000 unemployed since it took effect Jan. 1.

His blanket covered with Polish shaving cream, plastic combs, used clothes and hand tools, Neuman hoped to earn a few marks that can be exchanged for zlotys to be spent at home.

Although Neuman was selling items for low prices, his mark-ups would make many merchants envious. Among his goods was a comb that he had bought for 1,000 zlotys (about 10 cents); he later sold it for the equivalent of 3,000 zlotys (30 cents). He also earned 13 marks (77.185 zlotys), nearly one-sixth of what he earned each month as a bus driver, for a used pair of high heels sold to a Turkish customer.

Other Poles come to spend, rather than sell. "We don't have these kind of things in Poland," confided Henryk Stachowicz, a coal miner from Zabrze, pointing proudly to two new electronic keyboard instruments he had just purchased.

He said he could get 850,000 zlotys (\$89) in Poland for each keyboard, which he purchased for the equivalent of 660,000 zlotys (\$69) apiece.

Unshaven and dressed in wrinkled clothes, Stachowicz and the other 36 passengers who paid 140,000 zlotys (\$14.7) for a round-trip bus ticket, slept in their tour bus in a West Berlin parking lot rather than pay for a hotel.

The coal miner denied he planned to resell the keyboards and insisted he would never do business at the Polish market located near Potsdamer Platz, the former hub of Berlin before World War II.

"Stand there and sell stuff. That's not for me. I have a job. There is just nothing to buy in Poland," he said.

Vargas Llosa stays in Peruvian presidential race

LIMA (R) — Novelist Mario Vargas Llosa has said he would contest the final round of Peru's presidential election, ending speculation that he would quit in the face of mounting support for his opponent Alberto Fujimori.

"I will go to the second round struggling for the reforms our country needs," Vargas Llosa, a centre-rightist, said in a statement.

The local press had reported that Vargas Llosa was despondent and thinking of dropping out after Fujimori surprised the nation by coming within four percentage points of beating Vargas Llosa in the first round on April 8.

Support for Fujimori is spreading and most political analysts say the son of Japanese immigrants is the favourite to win the final round of elections on May 27 or June 3.

But as Vargas Llosa lifted the doubts about his candidacy, Fujimori abruptly cancelled a press conference called to announce his political platform.

His wife, Susana, told the journalists her husband had become sick after eating a contaminated oodish, causing acute to break out over his face. "My husband will not be able to attend... he is suffering from severe food intoxication," she said.

There was no suggestion, however, that the illness would affect Fujimori's candidature.

Fujimori, a mild-mannered former university rector, had been scheduled to announce his long-awaited electoral platform at the news conference.

Though he was the only one of nine candidates in the first round of elections who did not issue a political platform, Fujimori has defined himself as a pro-business centrist.

Vargas Llosa said he had been ready to quit his candidacy "to spare Peru the difficulties and delays of a second round in this moment of grave national crisis."

But he said he would stay in the race so as not to "defraud the millions of compatriots who voted for us" and because the constitution required it. He declined to speak to reporters after issuing the statement.

Whoever wins the presidency will lead a country drained by leftist guerrilla violence in which over 17,000 people have died.

COLUMN

TV makes U.S. children fat and violent, doctors say

CHICAGO (R) — Children in the United States spend more time watching television than doing anything else but sleeping, and are becoming fat and violent as a result, the American Academy of Pediatrics said Monday. "Sufficient data have accumulated to warrant the conclusion that protracted television viewing is one cause of violent or aggressive behaviour," the group said. "Television viewing also contributes substantially to obesity." The doctors made the comments in a policy statement published in the April issue of the American Academy of Pediatrics News. "In 1989 the average child in the United States still spent more time watching television than any other activity except sleeping" — about 25 hours per week — the group said. "The many implicit and explicit messages on television that promote alcohol consumption and promiscuous or unprotected sexual behaviour are also a cause for concern," it added. The group said parents should restrict their children to one or two hours of TV viewing per day and encourage them to read and participate in athletics.

Garbo funeral to be private

NEW YORK (AP) — As enigmatic in death as she was in life, Greta Garbo died a rich woman but left no will, according to a newspaper report Tuesday. Her frugal ways and good financial advice built the reclusive star's holdings into a fortune, according to the New York Post, which reported she owned several buildings in Beverly Hills, an extensive art collection and her New York home. Her only relative is her niece, Grae Reisfeld of Passaic, New Jersey, who also fiercely guards her privacy, the Post said. Officials at New York Hospital — where the husky-voiced actress died Sunday at age 84 — said Monday that funeral services would be private. "Private means private and everyone should respect her wishes," said longtime friend and neighbour Ben Buttenweiser. "It makes sense that she would have wanted it that way, otherwise you'd need the whole, entire United States army on hand to keep everybody out." Hospital spokeswoman Myrna Manners said Garbo had been a kidney dialysis patient, but at the family's request she released no information. The medical examiner's office told the Post that Garbo's body would be cremated.

Third of New York prostitutes carry AIDS virus

NEW YORK (R) — One out of three prostitutes in New York is carrying the AIDS virus, according to results of a new study. The results are preliminary, but if confirmed by formal review they would reflect one of the highest rates of AIDS infection ever found among prostitutes in the United States. The nine-month study, by Dr. Joyce Wallace, a Manhattan physician with a large acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) practice, tested some 950 streetwalkers. Wallace's study, the largest test of AIDS and prostitutes to date, showed that 33.7 per cent of the women were infected. Almost all were intravenous drug users. AIDS, which kills by stripping away the body's defences against disease, is known to be spread by sexual intercourse and sharing of blood-tainted needles.

Lincoln, Jefferson memorials crumbling

WASHINGTON (AP) — Two of Washington's most famous landmarks, the Lincoln and Jefferson memorials, are succumbing to water seepage, air pollution, littering tourists and a pesky little bug called the midge, experts say. Private consultants hired by the National Park Service say the worst problem was found at the 68-year-old memorial honouring President Abraham Lincoln. Dripping rainwater has caused deterioration of huge concrete slabs that support a broad cobblestone walkway and the grassy terrace surrounding the building. This week officials started an experimental one-hour delay in nighttime lighting of the Lincoln Memorial in an attempt to discourage a messy infestation of midges, small winged insects that breed in the muddy flats of the nearby Potomac River.